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## 2018-2019 ALLIANCE AMERICORPS VISTA

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### **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING VISTA**

**Title:** *AmeriCorps VISTA Member*  
**Placement Site:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities  
**Service Term:** August 2, 2018 – August 1, 2019  
**Contact:** Sunita Evenson  
Director of Human Resources  
651-789-2451

For nearly 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities has been connecting adults and youth for life changing relationships. You can be a part of deepening the impact of those relationships by building our organization's capacity to grow social emotional learning skills in our participants. Use your creativity and collaboration skills - and develop new skills in training and facilitation!

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities Overview**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (BBBS) is the oldest and largest mentoring organization in the region. We make meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (Bigs) and children (Littles) in the Twin Cities metro area. We recruit, screen, train and support highly qualified Bigs so they can develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people in our community. In 2017, BBBS served more than 2600 youth through community-based mentoring, site-based mentoring, and our education and enrichment programs.

#### **VISTA Responsibilities**

The 2018-2019 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) VISTA will work in partnership with agency and departmental leadership to increase the overall impact of school-based and community-based youth mentoring programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities by implementing social emotional learning enhancements that will help mentees gain critical non-cognitive skills and ultimately improve academic engagement and career readiness. The Social Emotional Learning VISTA will:

1. Build internal capacity of staff to implement developmental relationships framework and REACH system in their functional areas: From volunteer recruitment to teen match engagement, plan and facilitate learning opportunities and create tools to support each department's specific needs.
2. Develop and deliver tools and training to support volunteer mentors as it relates to social emotional learning: Align training and support for Bigs around REACH themes and provide support for measuring impact and suggesting continuous improvement strategies.
3. Build capacity for engaging parents and young people in BBBS social emotional learning efforts.

#### **Alliance VISTA Position Responsibilities**

- Create or improve data systems to increase organization's ability to track, evaluate, and replicate positive youth interventions
- Develop and implement a process for recruiting volunteers and caring adults to work with youth in areas such as mentoring, tutoring, civic engagement and college/career exploration
- Convene partners to align goals and activities
- Assess community needs and conduct asset mapping
- Research best practices relating to educational equity (ex. access to reliable transportation, ensuring quality data is available and used to target students, providing effective alternative pathways and additional time to earn a diploma, etc.) and conduct literature reviews
- Reduce/eliminate duplication in educational equity efforts
- Identify and integrate best practices into communities and organizations
- Assist in the creation and promotion of the GradMinnesota Resource Library
- Create resources and materials to help inform the community and disseminate information
- Create or promote leadership and civic engagement opportunities for youth

- Help organize community meetings
- Develop communication tools
- Identify potential collaborators and partners
- Research youth-led programming models and identifying opportunities to engage youth in co-creating programming

### **AmeriCorps Eligibility Requirements**

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National or have status as a Lawful Permanent Resident Alien
- Attend Pre-Service Orientation July 30-August 2, 2018
- *Please note that final candidates will be required to successfully pass a background check before being officially enrolled as an AmeriCorps VISTA Member.*

### **Alliance VISTA Qualifications**

- Interest in youth, service, education, and non-profit work
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Ability to deal effectively with a variety of tasks, priorities, and people in order to meet goals
- Self-motivated, able to work in a team, take initiative and work independently
- Able to present oneself in a highly professional manner and be an ambassador of the program

### **Site Qualifications**

- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Ability to deal effectively with a variety of tasks, priorities, and people in order to meet goals
- Self-motivated, able to work in a team, take initiative and work independently
- Able to present oneself in a highly professional manner and be an ambassador of the program
- Outgoing; comfortable and energized by meeting new people and partners
- Prior knowledge of and experience with positive youth development, mentoring and/or social emotional learning strategies
- Outcomes focused; able to envision the end product and manage timeline and strategies to achieve goals

### **Weekly Schedule**

- Monday-Thursday 9:00-5:00; Friday 9:00-12:00. Some evenings and weekends will be required
- VISTA Members serve in a full time capacity for a minimum of 40 hours per week during their term of service
- AmeriCorps VISTA Members may NOT be in school full-time or have another full-time position and serve with the Alliance

### **Benefits**

*As a **full-term AmeriCorps member**, VISTAs serve full time for 12 months & receive: Modest Living Allowance (approximately \$512 pre-tax biweekly); Health Care Allowance (~\$6,600 that can be applied to any out of pocket costs, cannot go towards premiums, non-essential health expenses, or dependents); Qualified Student Loan Forbearance; \$5,920 Education Award or cash stipend (approx.. \$1,800) upon successful completion of service; \$550 service relocation allowance (for VISTAs relocating more than 50 miles,) and ongoing, extensive support and training.*

**TO APPLY: Please visit <https://mnyouth.net/amicorps> or contact the site contact listed above.**

**For general questions about serving as an AmeriCorps member through Minnesota Alliance With Youth, please contact our Recruitment Team at [recruitment@mnyouth.net](mailto:recruitment@mnyouth.net) or 651-587-0531.**

### **Please note:**

- *We are committed to recruiting and engaging individuals without regard to disability, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation.*
- *This position may not displace another employee or position in any way*

- *Reasonable accommodations provided upon request for interviews and service activities.*
- *This document is available in alternative formats.*