

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: VISTA Peer Mentor Coordinator

Sponsoring Organization: Knoxville – Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)

Project Name: CAC AmeriCorps VISTA

Project Number:

Project Period: 08/07/2018 – 08/06/2019

Site Name (if applicable): University of Tennessee FUTURE Program

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Economic Opportunity

Secondary: Efficiency

Note:

If your VAD is not accepted, the State Office will note the reason(s) why here.

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: The FUTURE program at the University of Tennessee helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities make successful transition from high school to adult life by providing them with career counseling and developing their academic, vocational and decision making skills enhancing access to jobs and economic opportunity. The VISTA member will improve the quality of educational services provided by the FUTURE program by developing a more stable, consistent and well trained pool of volunteer peer mentors.

Objective of the Assignment (08/07/2018 – 11/31/2018)

Expand the volunteer recruitment reach of the FUTURE Program.

Member Activities:

1. Review the current status of mentor recruitment efforts at FUTURE and implement strategies for improvement.
 - A. Research past and current sources of peer mentors and prepare a brief summary report.
 - B. Survey current mentors to develop an understanding of their involvement in the program, scheduling needs and other factors that impact their ability to volunteer.
 - C. Prepare a report and a plan of action to continue or expand on effective practices and make changes to ineffective or counterproductive recruitment activities.

Objective of the Assignment (8/15/2018 – 9/30/2018)

Improve the training that peer mentors receive.

Member Activities:

- 1) Review the current status of mentor training at FUTURE and implement strategies for improvement.
 - a) Collaborate with current mentors to better understand their needs and challenges.
 - b) Review current orientation, training, and ongoing supports for peer mentors.
 - c) Collaborate with the program leadership to revise existing materials and develop new training materials, activities and supports.

Objective of the Assignment (01/01/2019 – 04/30/2019)

Expand the volunteer recruitment reach of the FUTURE Program.

Member Activities:

- 1) Applying what was learned from the review of current mentor strategies and training, Conduct recruitment of new peer mentors for the UT FUTURE program for the spring and fall semester.
- a) Reach out to potential peer mentors utilizing a broad range of marketing efforts as identified in the strategy review.

Objective of the Assignment (05/01/2019 – 08/03/2018)

Assess Outcomes and Prepare for Next Steps

Member Activities:

- b) Prepare a report and a modified plan of action based on the outcomes of the newly implemented marketing and recruitment efforts.