Opioid Prevention and Education Network of Michigan State University

Host Site Request for Proposals

*Full Application due Friday, March 22, 2019 5:00 p.m.*

Please note that this application, and the program itself, is subject to change based on Corporation for National and Community Service funding, policies, and procedures.
# Table of Contents

**TIMELINE** ........................................................................................................................................... 3

**OVERVIEW** ........................................................................................................................................ 4

**OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION NETWORK OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (OPEN-MSU)** ............... 4

**AMERICORPS VISTA** ............................................................................................................................... 4

**ACTIVITIES AND ROLES OF VISTA MEMBERS** ......................................................................................... 5

**HOST SITE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS** ..................................................................................... 6

**HOST SITE APPLICATION PROCESS** ....................................................................................................... 8

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS** ........................................................................................................... 8

**APPLICATION NARRATIVE** ..................................................................................................................... 9
# Timeline

## Host Site Recruitment Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP and Host Site Application Release</td>
<td>February 19, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informational Webinar for Applicants</strong> <em>(required to participate in one of the Informational Webinars)</em></td>
<td>February 25, 2019 (2 – 3 p.m. EST) or February 27, 2019 (11 – 12 p.m. EST) or March 1, 2019 (10 – 11 a.m. EST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Site Applications Due</td>
<td>March 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Site Notifications</td>
<td>March 29, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Orientation Webinar</td>
<td>April 2019 (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU and Host Site Invoice Issued</td>
<td>June 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUs, On-Site Orientation Plan, Host Site Fee Due</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISTA 2019 preferred start date</td>
<td>July 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor and VISTA Orientation at MSU</td>
<td>August 2019 (TBD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## VISTA Member Recruitment Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VISTA member application opens on my.americorps.gov VISTA portal</td>
<td>April 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening and interviews of candidates</td>
<td>Throughout May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final selection of candidates</td>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISTA 2019 preferred start date</td>
<td>July 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor and VISTA Orientation at MSU</td>
<td>August 2019 (TBD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview

Opioid Prevention and Education Network of Michigan State University (OPEN-MSU)

A core part of Michigan State University’s mission is advancing outreach, engagement, and economic development activities that are innovative, research-driven, and lead to a better quality of life for individuals and communities, at home and around the world. Michigan State University promotes models of university-community partnership in which work is driven by community-identified issues and assets.

The OPEN-MSU is a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program within the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that aligns with both MSU’s mission and the Healthy Futures focus area of CNCS’s VISTA programs. The goal of OPEN-MSU is to build the capacity of local efforts to create or expand opioid prevention, intervention, and treatment opportunities for low-income communities.

OPEN-MSU expects to support up to 20 health organizations and coalitions serving residents from all across Michigan. Two VISTA leaders and 20 VISTA members will contribute to the goals of the project by supporting local efforts to identify service gaps, improve communication within local collaboratives and organizations, and build the capacity of these entities to address the opioid abuse crisis in partnership with a network of MSU research and policy experts over the course of 3 years.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Founded in 1965, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is a federal anti-poverty program designed to provide needed resources to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to increase their capacity to lift communities out of poverty. In 1993, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of national service programs, housed at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

AmeriCorps VISTA supports efforts to alleviate poverty by providing opportunities for Americans 18 years and older from a diverse range of backgrounds to dedicate a year of full-time service with a sponsoring organization to create or expand programs designed to empower individuals and communities in overcoming poverty.

In Fiscal Year 2019, AmeriCorps VISTA plans to support approximately 8,000 full-time VISTA members who will serve with approximately 800 sponsors. They will leverage human, financial and material resources to develop sustainable solutions to problems in low-income communities across the country. For more information about AmeriCorps VISTA, click here.
Activities and Roles of VISTA Members

**VISTA Projects**

VISTA projects are intended to build capacity that is sustained after the project is complete. As such, hosting a VISTA member is not meant to be a permanent staffing solution. Organizations effectively utilizing a VISTA member may operate a VISTA project for up to three years. VISTA members serve one-year terms with an option to renew. If selected, your organization would likely host one VISTA member each year for the duration of the three-year project. Host sites may apply for an extension to host a VISTA member for a fourth year if they can demonstrate that this will contribute to the sustainability of the project and if the site can fund some or all of the VISTA member’s living allowance.

**OPEN-MSU Program**

The purpose of this VISTA program is to build capacity of host sites to identify service gaps, improve communication within local collaboratives and organizations, and address the opioid abuse crisis in partnership with a network of MSU research and policy experts.

Specific objectives will be identified by host sites based on their needs.

Potential prevention objectives include but are not limited to:

- Training coordination and resources for prescribers
- Working with communities to increase availability of medication drop off bins
- Reviewing programs and parameters established within Medicaid and other states to eliminate doctor/pharmacy shopping for multiple prescriptions
- Developing training materials and processes to increase public awareness on dangers of abuse, safe medication storage and disposal, and to reduce stigma of addiction

Potential treatment objectives include but are not limited to:

- Developing materials and processes that increased public awareness of laws that limit civil and criminal liability of administering Naloxone
- Researching and coordinating across agencies to explore limited statutory immunity for low-level offenses involved in reporting overdose and seeking medical assistance
- Researching approaches to increase access to care and insurance provisions for coverage, including for medication assisted treatment (MAT) and wraparound services
- Developing a process for training and coordinating with law enforcement officers who do not deal with narcotics regularly to better recognize and deal with addiction
- Researching barriers to diversion to treatment rather than incarceration
- Identifying trainings and processes to disseminate best practice guidelines for reducing the development of neo-natal abstinence syndrome (NAS)

OPEN-MSU host site activities could include but are not limited to:
• Coordinating local efforts to address service gaps and communication within local collaboratives
• Identifying and working with organizations and institutions not yet involved in local efforts
• Developing resources for case managers and individuals
• Collecting, analyzing, and reporting on relevant data
• Developing trainings and educational materials
• Developing and coordinating mentor programs
• Creating public outreach plans and materials
• Identifying local barriers to access for treatment or education
• Conducting a community assessment process
• Aligning existing initiatives across systems

**VISTA Members**

VISTA members are typically college educated, though they are not required to be, and serve full-time for one year. The Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS) provides members with an end-of-service award of either $1,800 cash or an Education Award of $6,095, which can be used to repay qualified student loans or pay tuition or certain other educational expenses. In addition to the end-of-service award, CNCS provides members with a monthly living allowance at the poverty level in their community (approximately $472 every two weeks for all members in Michigan). VISTA members will begin their year of service in July of 2019 and serve a full 12 months.

VISTA members' specific responsibilities will be determined by the host organizations' needs in conjunction with the OPEN-MSU Program Manager, and 20% of the VISTA’s time (one day/week) will be committed to professional development, resource sharing and development for organizational capacity-building, and data collection and reporting for the OPEN-MSU program.

**Host Site Expectations and Requirements**

OPEN-MSU will provide ongoing support to VISTA members through monthly trainings, ongoing communication via email and phone, site visits, and coaching. Host sites provide day-to-day supervision of members and additional training and evaluation support. Each host site must appoint one responsible VISTA Host Site Supervisor. Supervisors have a very strong influence on the success of the VISTA members’ service year.

**Host Site Supervisor Time Commitment**

• The supervisor must be a full-time employee with time to supervise and mentor the VISTA, as well as provide regular one-to-one supervision.
• The VISTA supervisor’s responsibilities will require 10-15 hours/month, with some months being more time-intensive than others. The busiest times of year will be
February, March, April, and July. These correspond to the VISTA recruitment, selection, and onboarding timeline.

- Supervisors are expected to participate in one introductory webinar at the start of the project (March 2019), two full-days of in-person training each August at Michigan State University with their new VISTA, monthly webinars with all OPEN-MSU staff, members, and partners, and two site visits with OPEN-MSU staff each year.
- Additional optional or required meetings may be scheduled if CNCS or OPEN-MSU deem them necessary.

**VISTA Recruitment and Selection**

OPEN-MSU will manage the VISTA recruitment, interview, and selection process. Host sites are responsible for providing feedback on the position description, reviewing pre-screened applications, and participating in selection committee activities as needed/available.

**Financial Contribution**

Host sites are required to offset the cost of the program by paying Michigan State University an annual VISTA financial contribution. The 2019/20 rate is $7,500. A host site’s financial contributions might vary each year based on OPEN-MSU’s costs to operate the program and our financial contribution requirement. Due to the program’s funding design and the up-front costs associated with program administration and training, refunds of the cost share will not be provided if the site is unable to select a VISTA member by the CNCS deadline or if the host site or VISTA member chooses to terminate the member’s service at any point before or during the program year. Other accommodations may be made at the discretion of OPEN-MSU.

Host sites will be invoiced by OPEN-MSU on June 3rd, 2019 for the $7,500, and full payment will be due on July 1st, 2019.

**In-kind Requirements**

In addition to supervision and training, host sites are required to provide their VISTA with:

- A personal workstation/desk and office supplies
- Access to a computer with current software and individual internet/email account
- Technical support for computer
- A telephone with personal voicemail
- At least one professional development opportunity
- Reimbursement for local travel if necessary, in accordance with organization policies for full-time staff
Host Site Application Process

In the application to become an OPEN-MSU Host Site, organizations will need to propose a project that can be completed by a VISTA member. Applications to host a VISTA will be reviewed by the OPEN-MSU Advisory Council according to the following criteria:

- Project aligns with one or more OPEN-MSU program goals.
- Project is focused on organizational capacity building, not direct service or administration of ongoing programs.
- Project is focused on serving low-income populations.
- Meaningful connections to community are an integral part of the project.
- Project incorporates a cross-site community assessment.
- VISTA Assignment Description (VAD) is actionable and achievable.
- Applying organization has capacity to provide regular, high-quality supervision, professional development opportunities, adequate work space, and other supports to the VISTA member.

Eligibility Requirements

- Host sites must be public agencies or 501c3 nonprofits.
- Sites must be able to make the required financial contribution.
- We strive for geographic distribution of projects throughout Michigan.
- We prioritize projects that have strong community engagement and input into the creation and implementation of the project.

Application Instructions

Applications must be completed and submitted electronically via email to OPEN-MSU (barnes33@msu.edu) by 5:00pm on March 22, 2019. OPEN-MSU is providing three informational webinars through February to assist applicants with understanding this opportunity. Please ask questions during the preparation of your application. We want to help. Contact: Jessica Barnes-Najor, barnes33@msu.edu, 517-974-9021.

Your Application Must Include the Following:

- Application Narrative
- Application Form
- VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)
- Proof of non-profit status
- A letter of commitment from the organization’s board of directors (or an appropriate administrator)
- The proposed supervisor’s resume and job description
Application Narrative

1. Overview and History of Your Organization *(Maximum 250 words)*

Briefly describe the history of the organization, including your mission, goals, and key programs. Please be clear about how your organization serves low-income people.

2. Description of Proposed Project and Alignment with OPEN-MSU Objectives and Activities

2.1. Describe your proposed project and how this project will support prevention or intervention objectives in your community. *(Maximum 300 words)*

Potential prevention objectives include but are not limited to:

- Training coordination and resources for prescribers
- Working with communities to increase availability of medication drop off bins
- Reviewing programs and parameters established within Medicaid and other states to eliminate doctor/pharmacy shopping for multiple prescriptions
- Developing training materials and processes to increase public awareness on dangers of abuse, medication storage and disposal, and to reduce stigma of addiction

Potential treatment objectives include but are not limited to:

- Developing materials and processes that increased public awareness of laws that limit civil and criminal liability of administering Naloxone
- Researching and coordinating across agencies to explore limited statutory immunity for low-level offenses involved in reporting overdose and seeking medical assistance
- Researching approaches to increase access to care and insurance provisions for coverage, including for medication assisted treatment (MAT) and wraparound services
- Developing a process for training and coordinating with law enforcement officers who do not deal with narcotics regularly to better recognize and deal with addiction
- Researching barriers to diversion to treatment rather than incarceration
- Identifying trainings and processes to disseminate best practice guidelines for reducing the development of neo-natal abstinence syndrome (NAS)

2.2. How will include your project include one or more of OPEN-MSU’s activities? How will the selected activities build the capacity of your organization? *(Maximum 300 words)*
Potential OPEN-MSU activities include:

- Coordinating local efforts to address service gaps and communication within local collaboratives
- Identifying and working with organizations and institutions not yet involved in local efforts
- Developing resources for case managers and program administrators
- Collecting, analyzing, and reporting on relevant data
- Developing trainings and educational materials for service providers
- Developing and coordinating mentor programs
- Creating public outreach plans and materials
- Identifying local barriers to access for treatment or education
- Conducting a community assessment process
- Aligning existing initiatives across systems

2.3. Discuss how your proposed VISTA project will influence the lives of low-income people in the communities you serve.
(Maximum 150 words)

3. Supervision and Support of the VISTA (Maximum 250 words)

Describe how and by whom the VISTA will be supervised. How will the supervisor and your organization contribute to a successful year for the VISTA (i.e., frequency and consistency of meetings, coaching, etc.)? Are you able to provide any additional support, such as a housing subsidy (see other allowable types of support on page 7)?