

Montana Campus Compact VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Local Food Systems VISTA
Sponsoring Organization: University of Montana – Montana Campus Compact Project Name: MTCC VISTA Project Number: Project Period: August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2023
Site Name: Opportunity Link, Inc.
Focus Area(s) Primary: Capacity Building Secondary: Environmental Stewardship

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities	
<p>Goal of the Overall VISTA Project: The goal of this project is to increase the knowledge of local food systems and traditional foods, and to increase the capacity for local and traditional food production, among Native food growers in an effort to enlarge the output of local food growing operations, to increase the marketing capabilities of small and part-time food growers, and to educate the residents of the Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap communities on the viability of agricultural products as an economic opportunity. This project directly addresses issues of poverty by increasing the amount of quality food available in communities that may otherwise experience insufficient food resources, and by offering pathways to sustainable economic independence to community members by empowering them to become agricultural producers.</p>	
<p>Objective: The VISTA member will orient themselves to project performance measurement requirements in order to successfully implement each component and accurately report on progress.</p>	<p>Member Activity: The member will ensure they receive and participate in an On-Site Orientation Training (OSOT) upon arrival at the host site and communicate any project questions to the host site supervisor and/or the Montana Campus Compact VISTA Manager.</p> <p>Member Activity: The member must review applicable performance measurements and anticipate outcomes for each activity included in this VAD.</p> <p>Member Activity: Upon understanding the performance measurement reporting requirements, the member will determine and put into place reporting tools necessary to supply performance measurement data to the Montana Campus Compact VISTA Project on a monthly basis.</p>
<p>Objective: Determine the role of the campus/community partner in the VISTA project.</p>	<p>Member Activity: Meet with the campus/community partner, discuss collaborative opportunities and potential.</p> <p>Member Activity: Maintain regular communication with campus partner.</p>
<p>Objective:</p>	<p>Member Activity: Collaborate with departments of the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy Tribes and Opportunity Link staff to compile research</p>

<p>Develop an effective and culturally appropriate series of workshops promoting the growing of local and traditional foods.</p>	<p>on best practices for local agriculture and topical information about traditional foods.</p> <p>Member Activity: In collaboration with Aaniiih Nakoda College and Stone Child College, organize a series of free trainings to educate community members and college students about local agriculture and traditional foods.</p> <p>Member Activity: Utilizing connections developed with workshop participants, formalize a working group of food growers and potential food growers to meet regularly and collaborate on agricultural initiatives.</p>
<p>Objective: Increase the capacity of food growers and potential food growers to perform their operations and increase their agricultural outputs.</p>	<p>Member Activity: Network in the community and foster relationships with producers to engage them in workshop activities, either as attendees or expert presenters, and the food growers working group.</p> <p>Member Activity: Assess barriers that producers are currently facing to commercializing their products.</p> <p>Member Activity: Develop mitigation plans to help producers overcome these barriers, and to prepare for other unanticipated events that may negatively impact their operations.</p> <p>Member Activity: Assemble resources that will permit producers to support their operations through improved marketing of their products, especially with a focus on empowering part-time food growers to convert their activities into a full-time business.</p>
<p>Objective: Promote the viability of food production as an economic opportunity by serving alongside community members to strengthen this sector of the local economy.</p>	<p>Member Activity: Continuously gather input, insights, and feedback from the populations being served about the challenges they face and opportunities they see.</p> <p>Member Activity: Create materials to promote the food growing sector as an economic opportunity and perform outreach activities at Buy Local Events and Peoples Markets throughout the region.</p> <p>Member Activity: Emphasize the importance of local and traditional food systems and the role that they play in community health and sustainability during all components of VISTA service.</p>