



AmeriCorps*VISTA Member Position Description

*AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), the domestic equivalent to the Peace Corps, is a national service program sponsored by the federal government to help strengthen communities and improve the lives of people in need. The mission of VISTA is to build the capacity of eligible organizations to help them more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty.*

Name of Organization: **Region Five Development Commission, U of MN Central Region Sustainable Development Partnership**

Purpose/ Mission: **To support implementation of a sustainable regional food system that will increase farm income, enhance community economic diversity and vitality, facilitate access to locally grown food, and promote healthy food choices.**

Position Title: **VISTA Member**

Location: **Staples, MN**

Key Responsibilities: **Research local food systems and programs throughout state and nationally;
Establish partnership and collaborative opportunities in developing a regional food program;
Assist in promoting a Central Region local foods "brand;"
Prepare compendium/data base of regional producers and purchases;
Develop food distribution system and process to monitor effectiveness of distribution system;
Support implementation of a grocery pilot program**

Reports to: **Executive directors of Region Five Development Commission and the Central Region Sustainable Development Partnership**

Term of Service: **August 8, 2008 – August 7, 2009**

Time Commitment: **Full-time. Evenings & weekends may be required. No outside employment or education allowed during term of service.**

Typical Hours: **8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday**

Qualifications: **Candidate must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident 18 years of age or older.**

Must possess a vehicle that can be used for occasional service-related travel. (Mileage reimbursement provided for this.)

Additional Requirements:

Candidate must attend a four-day Pre-Service Orientation training prior to start of service. (All expenses covered by VISTA program.)

Benefits:

- **Engagement in meaningful community service.**
- **Professional development.**
- **\$865 monthly living allowance.**
- **\$1,200 Cash Award or \$4,725 Education Award (which can be used for federal loan repayment or tuition & books) upon completion of term.**
- **Ten days each: personal & sick leave.**
- **Medical coverage (for member only).**
- **Child care assistance if eligible.**
- **Regular skills training.**

How to apply:

Contact:
Or visit the national AmeriCorps website at <http://my.americorps.gov/>

For more information:

Contact: Cheryal Hills, Region Five Development Commission at chills@regionfive.org or Linda Ulland, U of M Central Region Sustainable Development Partnership at ullan012@umn.edu

Application Deadline:

Until filled or June 10, 2008.