

- Title: VISTA Civic Engagement Associate

(VAD) VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities Goal of the Overall VISTA Project: In 2016, four neighborhoods in the City of San Diego were awarded designation as a Promise Zone, a federal place-based initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The initiative's intent is to alleviate poverty in some of the country's most historically under resourced communities through a collaborative framework that unites organizations together to work on shared goals. The San Diego Promise Zone (SDPZ) initiative seeks to break the concept that the neighborhood in which you grow up negatively impacts the chances of graduating high school, suffering a chronic disease or experiencing economic prosperity.

Member Duties: The Civic Engagement VISTA will help foster alignment around the needs of Promise Zone communities between internal and external stakeholders; build capacity for the Promise Zone Steering Committee and partners throughout the year of service. This will result in increased progress with the long-term planning and sustainability of the initiative during and after the designation. With the City of San Diego serving as the lead organization, SDPZ has an operations team that convenes and coordinates meetings and activities with more than 80 partners, including nonprofits, community organizations, government agencies, and businesses, while actively engaging residents. The focus areas of the SDPZ are: 1) improving educational opportunities 2) creating a priority of safety 3) increasing economic activities 4) creating jobs 5) increasing access to affordable housing and 6) increasing access to healthcare and healthy foods.

Service Description: The Promise Zone initiative was created to address the challenges in areas with deep and persistent poverty, while recognizing and leveraging the many assets already in place within the community. Today, the neighborhood you grow up in impacts your odds of graduating high school, whether you are likely to face chronic disease, and your lifelong economic opportunities. The initiative's promise is to co-create an ecosystem of opportunity and investment through collaboration that addresses systemic racism and inequities to improve the quality of life of Promise Zone residents. The Promise Zone aims to transform these under-resourced communities in San Diego by 1) improving educational opportunities; 2) creating a priority of safety; 3) increasing economic activities; 4) creating jobs; 5) increasing access to affordable housing; and 6) increasing access to healthcare and healthy foods. The goal is to ensure that everyone has equitable access to opportunities. For more information relating to the San Diego Promise Zone, visit our website [San Diego Promise Zone](#).