

- Title: VISTA Grants & Research Associate

(VAD) VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities Goal of the Overall VISTA Project: In 2016, the City of San Diego was designated 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 underserved communities. The San Diego Promise Zone (SDPZ) is working towards breaking the cycle of poverty through a collaborative framework that unites organizations together to work on shared goals. AmeriCorps VISTAs supports the initiative by fostering and building partnerships with organizations, researching competitive funding opportunities, and sharing resources to expand the capacity of organizations serving the Promise Zone.

Member Duties: S/he will support the development of the partnership by recruiting and evaluating new partners for the initiative, meeting with partner organizations to identify collaborative opportunities, identifying organizational strengths and needs, arranging capacity building trainings as appropriate, identifying grant opportunities, and writing letters of support. The VISTA supports the Promise Zone Program Manager and the HUD Liaison by managing the review process for preference point certifications and tracks grant activity in the Promise Zone.

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](#).