

**Narrative Excerpt and Project Plan for AmeriCorps*VISTA
Franklin Street Community Housing Corporation – Power of We Consortium Sponsoring Organization**

The Mission of the Power of We Consortium (PWC) is "to improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of all residents of the Capital Area."

The PWC is a "network of networks" that mobilizes assets to address community challenges that are beyond the capacity of any single organization to address.

Part II. PROJECT NARRATIVE

C. Needs and Activities

*1. State in measurable and quantifiable terms the specific poverty-related need(s) the AmeriCorps*VISTA project will address, including the number of low-income people directly affected by the problem(s).*

Financial asset development, including financial education, job placement, and Earned Income Tax promotion

Household financial security and asset development is a pervasive need for individuals and families living in poverty-ridden Lansing neighborhoods, some with up to 41% of its residents at or below the poverty level. As of July, 2006, the local Bureau of Labor and Statistics quoted Lansing's unemployment rate at 6.9%, leaving many residents without employment options. Census data released August, 2006 show Lansing residents living at or below the federal poverty line comprise 24.2% of the total population of Ingham County.

Lansing's Capital Area is very culturally diverse, being the new home for 400-600 international refugees annually, representing up to 27 different countries/ethnicities of origin. State funding for adult education has plummeted in recent years, leaving both new and long-time Lansing residents needing English as a Second Language classes, GED classes, certificate training, vocational training etc. without recourse. VISTA members will be placed in affected communities to improve household financial security and asset development through financial education, job placement, Earned Income Tax Credit promotion, etc.

D. Strengthening Communities

1. Describe how the new infrastructure or organizational capacity created by your project will bring individuals and, ultimately, the community out of poverty.

Specific poverty-related community need(s) the AmeriCorps*VISTA project will address:

- Greater household financial security and independence
- VISTA members will help design, develop, and implement financial education, job placement, and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) projects.
- Success will be measured by tracking project participation, changes in financial management behaviors, job placement and retention, and receipt of the EITC.

In addition, the success of all projects supported by VISTA members will be measured by:

- Tracking volunteer participation,
- The number of project partners involved
- The amount of cash and in-kind support that is leveraged.

Franklin Street Community Housing Corporation-AmeriCorps*VISTA Project Plan Year One

<p><i>Column A</i> Goals, Activities, and Results</p>	<p><i>Column B</i> Date(s)</p>	<p><i>Column C</i> Project Reporting</p>
<p>Identify Goal(s) to which members’ activities are directed.</p> <p>To develop sustainable systems and opportunities to improve household financial security and asset development through financial education, job placement, Earned Income Tax Credit promotion and other financial resources targeted at individuals living in poverty in Ingham County.</p>		
<p>Activities: What action steps are needed to accomplish this goal?</p> <p>Activities: VISTA members may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Program Expansion 2) Resource Development 3) Volunteer Plan development including, Recruitment, Management, Retention and Training of community volunteers 4) Develop Public Awareness 5) Develop Program Integration 		<p>Activities: What action steps have you taken to accomplish this goal?</p>
<p>Identify any Results (outputs, intermediate outcomes, or end outcomes) related to this goal. If the result is to be measured, write “performance measure” in parentheses beside the result. For each result, identify the indicator, the targets you expect to meet, the instrument(s) you will use to measure this result, and how you will collect the data. If you have data for this result from prior years, report it here.</p> <p>Output-Performance Measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach plan and public awareness for target populations developed ▪ Resource Development Plan completed ▪ Systems for tracking and analyzing client outcomes completed ▪ Client survey is developed to determine satisfaction with the various programs offered 		<p>Results: Report actual results related to this goal. Compare the actual targets to the anticipated target stated in Column A. Describe how these results were measured.</p>

Indicator

Target

Instrument

Description of data collection:

Intermediate Outcomes

- **Marketing tools for partnership outreach completed**
- **Marketing tools to reach target population completed**
- **Process for efficient movement of clients through service system is developed and implemented for clients to move through a continuum for asset accumulation.**
- **Regular communication channels and service systems are developed between organizations and clients**

Indicator

Target

Instrument

Description of data collection:

End Outcome-Performance Measure

- **New partners or collaborators from the community, including businesses, financial institutions and individuals are involved with programming to increase asset accumulation for low-income**
- **Resources and/or funds have increased by 50% for programs**
- **Client base activity has increased by 50% and evaluation of client satisfaction is averaged in programming and is at a “satisfied” level.**
- **New clients have increased by 20% by the end of the program year**

Indicator

Target

Instrument

Description of data collection:

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