

**Narrative Excerpt and Project Plan for AmeriCorps*VISTA
Refugee Development Center – 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).*

Community re-entry by vulnerable populations, including the homeless, ex-offenders, **refugees**, and youth aging out of foster care, has been recognized as a significant problem for Lansing communities.

Ingham County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) has produced data showing over 4000 unique individuals have sought homeless or housing services since 2004, with as many as 450 requests per day, half of which are from families.

The 2000 US Census stats indicate that in Ingham County alone there were 1783 individuals in institutional care (corrections, nursing homes, juvenile centers, etc.) that at some time would need assistance in re-entry into their communities. VISTA members will help design, develop, and implement housing, job placement, **language development**, financial literacy, etc. for re-entering populations in a variety of projects.

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 stability for the formerly homeless, ex-offenders, **refugees**, and youth aging out of foster care: VISTA members will help design, develop, and implement housing, job placement, **language development**, financial literacy, and human services referral projects. Success will be measured by tracking project plan development, the number of clients placed in housing and jobs, housing and job retention and changes, participation in language and financial literacy projects, improved language and financial literacy as demonstrated by test scores, improved financial management as demonstrated by savings habits and bill payment, human services referrals, clients' use of referrals, and, in the case of ex-offenders, client recidivism.

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.

Refugee Development Center Program-AmeriCorps*VISTA Project Plan Year One

<i>Column A</i> Goals, Activities, and Results	<i>Column B</i> Date(s)	<i>Column C</i> Project Reporting
<p>Identify Goal(s) to which members' activities are directed.</p> <p>Increase the number of English as a Second Language (ESL) adult classroom slots at the Refugee Development Center and thereby build economic and social capacity among low-income immigrants/refugees and their families in the Lansing community.</p>		
<p>Activities: What action steps are needed to accomplish this goal?</p> <p>VISTA members will assist with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coordination of additional ESL capacity, in cooperation with the Immigrant and Refugee Resource Collaborative (IRRC) 2) Grant writing to build long-term sustainability for community-wide ESL capacity 3) Evaluation of program outcomes 4) Referrals and enrollment at Lansing Community College or other higher level classes 5) Recruit/train volunteer ESL tutors 		<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 Operationalize 2 new ESL classes serving 50 adult refugees/immigrants per class per semester at the Refugee Development Center.</p> <p>Intermediate Outcome-Performance Measure VISTA activities will assure that refugees/immigrants will complete/pass classes and be prepared to proceed to ESL class work at Community</p>		<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>

College/Higher Education level

Indicator

Number of refugees/immigrants who take/pass the ESL assessment at the completion of the classes

Target

100 individuals

Instrument

Pre and Post test

Description of data collection: VISTA members will assist refugees/immigrants in the administration of the Wolfe Assessment, and oral and written pre and post-test assessment linked to the LCC LOEP assessment.

End Outcome-Performance Measure

Low-income language minority residents will attain English language level proficiency needed to enter higher level education

Indicator

Percentages of ESL graduates are prepared to move on to higher level/Community College education classes.

Target

99%

Instrument

Activity log

Description of data collection: Staff/volunteers/VISTA members will record activities related to orientation and/or enrollment in higher education.

