AmeriCorps VISTA Overview:

The Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program places individuals in nonprofit organizations and public agencies to support efforts to fight poverty. Through the years, more than 180,000 individuals, known as VISTAs, have committed at least one year of full-time service to low-income communities in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Organization Overview:

Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN), a nonprofit organization, was established in 2010 with Founding Partner the City of Charleston and other county-wide stakeholders, whose vision and purpose is to transform its “Neighborhood” within a generation. CPN, is home to ~24,000 residents—6,500 of whom are children under the age of 18—and covers a 5.6 square mile area of Charleston County, called the “Neck” and straddles portions of the cities of Charleston and North Charleston. The “Neck” coincides with attendance zones of four Charleston County School District (CCSD) Title I elementary schools with high concentrations of children living in poverty: Chicora, James Simons, Mary Ford and Sanders-Clyde. CPN’s current work is focused on implementing evidence-based initiatives that provide family and individual supports to help students achieve and thrive, thereby positioning them for success. More information at www.charlestonpromise.org.

General Overview of Work:

Charleston Promise Neighborhood is seeking one (1) AmeriCorps VISTA to support the “Miseducation of Gentrification” project. This individual will help CPN build a program to recruit and engage residents in the conversations around gentrification, and through research, offer ways to connect them to resources and opportunities which will provide benefit through economic development, social and community advocacy.

The VISTA’s work will support four objectives:
(a) Research different cities and their experiences with gentrification to build CPN’s organizational knowledgebase,
(b) Compile list of the resources available to residents that may provide economic, financial, and well-being supports,
(c) Recruit community residents and potential partners interested in this work, and
(d) Develop program materials and marketing collateral to support future programs.

Work Location & Hours: The AmeriCorps VISTA will have space at the Charleston Promise Neighborhood Office. The AmeriCorps VISTA will follow CPN’s work schedule and calendar. Typical hours are 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday, with occasional evening and weekend work.

Compensation: AmeriCorps VISTA members receive a modest living allowance and health benefits during their service, and have the option of receiving a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or post-service stipend after completing their service. CPN will provide $100/month for rental assistance.

Apply online: https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=87125&fromSearch=true

If you have questions, please email info@charlestonpromise.org with “AmeriCorps VISTA Member” in the Subject Line. No phone calls please.