Substance Misuse Prevention VISTA
(Full-time, 40 hours/week)

Reports to: Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.

Project Summary: The Substance Misuse Prevention AmeriCorps VISTA (part of the Corporation for National and Community Service) will initiate a project initiative at Vermont Afterschool to support community-led interventions that increase protective factors for youth through trauma-informed practices, out-of-school time activities, family engagement, and community connections. Through this project, the VISTA will gain the following:

1) Experience developing and organizing a statewide initiative, including communications, evaluation, and writing skills;
2) Facilitation skills working with a variety of stakeholders and audiences;
3) Experience working closely with practitioners from afterschool programs and other youth serving organizations overtime to build protective factors for youth;
4) Experience developing and leading workshops and trainings;
5) The opportunity to connect public health and youth development concepts to real project strategies being implemented on the ground and in community; and
6) Being part of a strong, nimble, and highly effective team.

This is a one-year project through January 2021 with the potential to expand. The position is based out of our office in South Burlington, VT.

Key Responsibilities:

This position will work with targeted communities to support family engagement strategies, as well as a statewide emphasis on social-emotional learning supports. It is expected that the Substance Misuse Prevention VISTA will provide facilitated meetings with frontline afterschool staff and community members. The VISTA will support project implementation through key activities:

- Collecting, assessing, and developing resources, guidebooks, and toolkits for afterschool programs to use to strengthen family engagement and support around substance use prevention
- Identifying additional communities that could start capacity building work now to join the Vermont Youth Project in the coming years
- Implementing a readiness assessment with core planning teams in each of the target communities to evaluate their current capacity to connect with, recruit, and engage parents and families in their strategy meetings and decision-making processes
- Working with the core planning teams in each community to create and implement action plans to increase family engagement for the Vermont Youth Project
• Helping afterschool programs organize and host family engagement events in each of the six targeted communities; incorporating newly developed training materials and resources at these events
• Organizing and hosting regular communities of practice for afterschool directors and site leaders in each of the three counties; focusing on social emotional learning, trauma-informed care, and restorative practices
• Developing and hosting a statewide Leadership Institute in Resilience and Afterschool (LIRA)
• Building relationships with community partners such as those involved with the VT9to26 Coalition, Vermont’s State Trauma Group, and Vermont Department of Mental Health
• Working collaboratively with all members of the Vermont Afterschool team and other duties as assigned.

Essential Skills:

• Training and experience in education, early childhood, social work, psychology, youth work, community building, and/or afterschool.
• Demonstrated vision and passion for supporting others in creating positive environments for the learning, care, and development of children and youth.
• Familiarity with effective facilitation strategies, best practices for working with adult learners, and social emotional learning concepts.
• Demonstrated organizational and/or project leadership skills, including: collecting and analyzing data; writing reports; developing outreach materials; and fostering positive relationships with a wide variety of partners, community members, and families.
• Ability to work independently and with self-direction.
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including proven record of working collaboratively with others.
• Ability to multi-task with excellent time management and organizational skills.
• Confidence in solving problems with tenacity and perseverance.
• Proficiency in the use of technology, including MS office products (e.g., Word, Excel, Publisher), and the ability to produce documents and reports that are well-written and well-presented.
• Reliable transportation required. This position will require travel throughout Vermont at all times of year and may require time in the evenings or on the weekends.

How to apply:

To apply, please visit https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=93135&fromSearch=true. If you have questions about Vermont Afterschool and the work involved, please inquire via jobs@vermontafterschool.org. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis and must be submitted via the My Americorps website. The position will be posted until filled and is available immediately. Vermont Afterschool is an equal opportunity employer, and we especially welcome applications from individuals who will contribute to our diversity.