

**2009 VISTA Summer Associate Concept Paper**

**Sponsoring Organization:** [REDACTED]

**VISTA Sponsor Supervisor:** [REDACTED]

**Project Number:** [REDACTED]

**Total Number of Summer Associates Requested:** 75

**Number of Standard Associates Requested:** 75

**Number of Cost Share Associates Requested:** 0

**Revolving start dates:**

Start Date	8 Week Commitment Completion	10 Week Commitment Completion
May 4, 2009	June 29, 2009 <i>28th</i>	July 13, 2009 <i>12</i>
May 18, 2009	July 13, 2009 <i>12th</i>	July 27, 2009 <i>26th</i>
June 8, 2009	August 3, 2009 <i>2nd</i>	August 17, 2009 <i>10th</i>
June 22, 2009	August 17, 2009 <i>10th</i>	August 31, 2009 <i>30</i>
July 6, 2009	August 31, 2009 <i>30th</i>	

**Plan for recruiting high quality Associates to fill requested number of positions:**

**1. Media**

- a. General Media Release to all contacts (utilize United Way media list)
- b. Pursue relationship with targeted media for additional coverage: WMT, KZIA, Gazette, KCRG, City Newsletter

**2. Online**

- a. Utilization of [www.vistacorridorrecovery.org](http://www.vistacorridorrecovery.org) and [www.crweedandseed.org](http://www.crweedandseed.org)
- b. Create Facebook & MySpace pages
- c. Craig's List, VISTAnet listserv, E-mail blitz

**3. Student Recruitment**

- a. Information for local (Iowa) college websites and newsletters
- b. Speakers Bureau

**4. Informational Sessions**

- a. Presentations on VISTA and opportunities here in CR, include ability to apply online following session.

**5. E-grants**

- a. Compelling e-mail to be sent to all individuals in the system.

**Statement of the poverty-related problem or challenge to be addressed by the VISTA Summer Associate Program:**

The Cedar Rapids community is experiencing tragedy as never before. The Cedar River, with a flood stage of 12 feet, crested at 31.1 feet on 6/13/08. This was 11.1 feet over the previous record of 20 feet set in 1929. After the city evaluated the damage it was found that the flood affected 5,390 homes, 1,049 businesses, 18 industries, and 85 non-profit and faith based organizations. The floods in Iowa caused more than \$8 billion in damage, with Cedar Rapids the hardest-hit area with a total of 10 square miles and 1,300 city blocks under water in Cedar Rapids. Sadly much of neighborhoods experiencing flooding were neighborhoods already designated as target areas due to high crime levels and lower socio-economic class. This tragedy continues to greatly compound issues already being faced by these individuals.

**Description of summer project activities including expected outputs and outcomes from this initiative.**

*It is important to note that given the fact that Cedar Rapids has never encountered a disaster of this magnitude that it is impossible to anticipate all of the needs that will continue to arise during the rebuild process.*

**Activities-** Summer Associates will be brought in to provide support to the collaborative flood recovery effort in Linn County. They will assist with volunteer recruitment and mobilization, providing necessary leadership to community-wide efforts.

**Output-** Specific needs of the community will continue to be identified and strategies will be developed to meet these needs.

Volunteer recruitment is two-fold: 1) provides necessary support for individuals seeking to rebuild their homes that would otherwise be unable and 2) spreads public awareness on the continued devastation experienced by many in the Cedar Rapids community.

**Intermediate Outcome-** Providing necessary support to the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) will increase the scope and reach of efforts in the Cedar Rapids community.

**End Outcomes-**

1. With 59,037 volunteer hours coordinated through the assistance of the VISTA Flood Recovery program 7/2-10/31, the summer program would seek to mobilize an additional 35,000 volunteer hours May 4 through August 31, 2009.
2. It is anticipated that a minimum 50 properties will be directly impacted by teams mobilized through the efforts of the VRC.
3. In addition a minimum of three different mediums will be utilized to educate and inform the public.

**Description of how community partners will contribute to the project's success:**

Throughout this tragedy the entire Cedar Rapids community has come together in ways that can only be described as remarkable.

The Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) is a partnership with United Way of East Central Iowa. Now re-located inside the new Community Recovery Center (CRC) the program is part of the larger collaboration of agencies and entities including: Rebuild Iowa, Case Advocates, Matthew 25 Tool Lending Library, etc. The Linn Area Long Term Coalition is spearheading the formalization of the rebuild process for affected individuals in need of assistance.

**Description of pre-service and in-service training to be provided:**

Summer associates will receive a two-day pre-service orientation.

- Broad Overview of the Program (DOC/CCIA/VISTA)
  - Broken Windows Theory/Community Based Corrections Presentation
  - CCIA History and Program Overview
  - Weed & Seed Strategy
  - VISTA Neighborhood Assistance Work Plan
- VISTA Expectations
  - Reporting, Policy, Procedure
- VISTA Flood Recovery
  - "Epic Surge" video covering the 2008 record flooding
  - VISTA Work Plan
  - Volunteer Reception Center-History and Overview of Office Operations
  - Safety Training
  - Volunteer Reception Center-History and Overview of the Field Operations
- Tour (with appropriate speakers at each location)
  - Taylor Tiger Cub Kids Club, Oakhill Jackson NRC, Wellington House, Mound View NRC, Community Recovery Center, Matthew 25 Hub.

Training will be ongoing as warranted by the changing needs of the recovery/rebuild efforts as well as the summer associate's placement. For example, field members receive on-going training coinciding with the current stage of the rebuild process.

Utilization of the online Resource Center available to VISTA members is highly encouraged. Appropriate trainings will be selected and required of members throughout the summer.

**Indication of how supervision and service-related travel will be provided:**

[REDACTED] will provide oversight of the summer associate program, as he currently serves as the VISTA Program Supervisor. Coordination of day-to-day operations will be conducted by [REDACTED], VISTA Site-Supervisor, who will act as the summer associates' primary point of contact and support. Support will be provided by current Department staff, and [REDACTED] has agreed to provide additional support as needed. It should be noted that leadership will also be provided to this project by the Linn Area Long Term Coalition partners as summer associates will be working closely within their organization.

Limited travel is necessary as the Weed and Seed target area consists of a 4.2 square mile section of Central Cedar Rapids. Following the June flood CCIA was able to acquire several buses that can be used for transport. A grant was also written for the purchase of a truck to be used for VISTA Flood Recovery field work. Financial assistance with the purchase of gas cards is available through grants written to the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation and Rockwell Collins. CCIA continues to look for additional ways to meet the transportation needs of the recovery effort.

**Description of end-of-summer assessment/recognition event to be conducted:**

Each Summer Associate will receive a certificate in recognition of their service during our community's time of need. A recognition event will be planned to recognize the contributions of the summer associates and additional year long members that will complete service in August. Members will be consulted on type of celebrations to be held.

**Description of project sustainability upon conclusion of summer program:**

During their 8-10 weeks of service, summer associates will provide necessary support to the Cedar Rapids community recovery and rebuild process. While their primary role will be volunteer mobilization, effective mobilization will ensure community volunteers develop necessary skills to mobilize additional teams of community volunteers in their absence.

**Summer Associate Assignment Descriptions**

Summer Associates will provide essential support to the Cedar Rapids Community during flood recovery/rebuild efforts. It is difficult to determine the exact roles of 75 individuals without knowledge of the skill base or interest of the applicant pool. The recruitment of year long members will also affect the placement of individuals in the 8-10 week roles. At the current time it is anticipated that the member break down would be:

- (30-35) Volunteer Reception Center Field Leads—mobilizing groups of volunteers, teaching them the necessary rebuild skills to mobilize future teams of volunteers.
- (8) Volunteer Reception Center Field Support—mobilize to canvas neighborhood to determine needs of the community, contacting homeowners, develop partnership with construction coordinator to perform assessments.
- (8-20) Flood Recovery Liaisons—educating the public and other groups about the process and resources available, developing partnerships.
- (5) Homelessness: Collaborate with and provide support to Sleep-Out Committee, Sheltering Committee, and Continuum of Care Committee.
- (1) Grant Writing
- (1) Fundraising
- (1) \*Videography
- (3) \*Code Enforcement—Work to understand the city’s newly implemented code enforcement strategies and develop a medium to inform the public.
- (1) \*Health—Partner with the Health Department to gather accurate and comprehensive information on the health affects of those who worked in the flood zone last summer (continue to work in the flood zone). Information should also be gathered on low/no cost health care. Medium should be developed to share the information with the community.
- (1) \*Hunger—Work collectively with food banks and discount food programs in the community to identify greatest needs. Develop a strategy to address one or more of these needs. Assist with information individuals about Food Stamp eligibility.
- (3) \*Employment—Familiarize self with ES-Tips program. Work with the Workforce Development office and local shelters to schedule individuals to complete the program.
- (1) \*Reentry—Provide additional support to the on-going reentry initiatives. Work will likely include extensive research and data entry.
- (2) \*Communication—Accurate documentation of VISTA Flood Recovery projects is important to fund development and future recruitment. Members will work to write articles on the projects being completed.
- (3) \*Taylor—Members will assist with projects specific to the Taylor neighborhood, including the Tiger Cub Kids Club and Matthew 25 Tool Lending Library. Members will work to plan events that will rebuild the community cohesion that has suffered due to the closing of the Taylor School.
- (1) \*OHJ NRC—Member will support the NRC, working to expand the resources offered, publicize the re-opening, and work with the Neighborhood Association to plan summer events.

*\*Notates that this member will also provide necessary support to the BRIGHTEN project, which seeks to address housing and zoning code violations.*

**Complete VADs attached as requested.**

**AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate**

**VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids**

**Role: VISTA Field Community Lead**

<b>VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist</b>	<b>Planned Period of Work</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>	<p align="center">Summer 2009</p>
<p><b>Serve as Team Leader of flood clean-up crews dispersed from the VRC.</b>  <b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Train, coordinate, and supervise groups of volunteers in the tasks of drywall installation, mudding, sanding, and finishing and other aspects of reconstruction including but not limited to cabinetry, flooring, insulation, and siding.</li> <li>2. Work with the VRC scheduling manager to ensure that daily projects are lined up.</li> <li>3. Work with the construction coordinator and homeowners to develop an understanding of the scope of work and ensure that the quality meets certain guidelines</li> <li>4. Insure that all members of their crew are properly outfitted with necessary tools and safety supplies and that those tools and supplies are inventoried and returned.</li> <li>5. Call and report any injuries or changes in work plan to the VRC upon occurrence.</li> <li>6. Make sure that all team members' (community volunteers') work hours are properly recorded at the VRC.</li> </ol> <p><i>Be available to fill other needs in the flood affected area such as cleaning out homes and helping individuals move as needed.</i></p>	
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (date):</b> _____</p>

**AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate**

**VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids**

**Role: VISTA Field Support**

<b>VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist</b>	<b>Planned Period of Work</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>	<p align="center">Summer 2009</p>
<p><b>Serve as a Liaison between the recovery/rebuild efforts and the Cedar Rapids community.</b>  <b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Familiarize self with the rebuild process and the resources available to individuals affected by the Flood of 2008.</li> <li>2. Determine the need of the flood affected community by disseminating information to homeowner to develop understanding of the unmet needs that still exist.</li> <li>3. Serve as point of contact between homeowners and the VRC before the work is started and through the completion of tasks to ensure that they are informed of the scope of work that is to be performed and when they can expect to receive volunteers.</li> <li>4. Work with construction coordinator to perform assessments on flood affected homes to determine the amount and cost of materials needed to rebuild the properties.</li> <li>5. Assist with the set-up and clean-up of large community wide volunteer events as needed.</li> </ol>	
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (date):</b> _____</p>

**AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate**

**VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids**

**Role: Fund Development—Grant Writing**

<b>VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist</b>		<b>Planned Period of Work</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>		Summer 2009
<p><b>Building Resources to support the rebuild/recovery efforts of VISTA Flood Recovery.</b></p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read previous grants submitted for programming.</li> <li>2. Locate grants—resources for locating grants will be provided.</li> <li>3. Work to complete minimum 4 grants during 8 week summer commitment.</li> <li>4. Review of each grant will be done by program staff, prior approval needed before submission.</li> <li>5. Comprise a grant binder; including grant opportunities found but not applied for and copies of grants submitted.</li> <li>6.</li> </ol>		
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>		<b>Completed (date):</b> _____



## AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate

**VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids**

**Focus: Hunger**

<b>VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist</b>	<b>Planned Period of Work</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>	<p>Summer 2009</p>
<p><b>Hunger Initiative</b></p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify food banks and discount food programs in the Cedar Rapids community.</li> <li>2. Assess their ability to meet the growing needs.</li> <li>3. Identify greatest need of the food banks in the Cedar Rapids area.</li> <li>4. Develop a strategy to meet this need—submit a project proposal for approval prior to implementation.</li> <li>5. Work to distribute information of Food Stamp eligibility.</li> </ol> <p><u>Additional support for BRIGHTEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide leadership and support to BRIGHTEN community events and smaller group projects.</li> <li>• Aid in volunteer recruitment and mobilization.</li> <li>• Assist with BRIGHTEN solicitation efforts.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (date):</b> _____</p>

**AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate**

**VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids**

**Focus: Employment**

<b>VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist</b>	<b>Planned Period of Work</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>	<p align="center">Summer 2009</p>
<p><b>Employment Initiative</b></p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Familiarize self with ES-Tips program at Mound View NRC, Oakhill Jackson NRC, and Wellington House.</li> <li>2. Identify key areas in the Cedar Rapids community with a high-concentration of unemployed individuals.</li> <li>3. Work to schedule appointments for individuals to complete the ES-Tips program.</li> <li>4. Recruit community volunteers to support the program at the completion of the summer program.</li> </ol> <p><u>Additional support for BRIGHTEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide leadership and support to BRIGHTEN community events and smaller group projects.</li> <li>• Aid in volunteer recruitment and mobilization.</li> <li>• Assist with BRIGHTEN solicitation efforts.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (date):</b> _____</p>

**AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate**

**VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids**

**Role: VISTA Homelessness Initiative**

**VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist**

**Planned Period of Work**

Summer 2009

**Goal:** Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.

Level 1: Coordination of efforts & assessment of needs

Level 2: Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources

Level 3: Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood & community viability – continued resource allocation & community-building efforts

**Work to find solutions to the increase in Homelessness in the Cedar Rapids community.**

**Responsibilities:**

1. Familiarize self with the current homelessness problems resulting from the Flood of 2008.
2. Visit each of the shelters in the Cedar Rapids community to gain understanding of the needs in the community.
3. Work to collaborated and solidify partnerships with the Sleep-Out Committee, Sheltering Committee, and Continuum of Care Committee.
4. Provide support to current projects initiatives. Collaborate with other summer associates to develop a VISTA strategy to implement. Examples include: donation drive, awareness campaign, etc.
5. Submit a full project proposal to Site Supervisor for approval prior to implementation.

Additional support for BRIGHTEN

- Provide leadership and support to BRIGHTEN community events and smaller group projects.
- Aid in volunteer recruitment and mobilization.
- Assist with BRIGHTEN solicitation efforts.

*The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.*

**Completed (date):**  
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**AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate**

<b>VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids</b>	<b>Focus: Health</b>
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<b>VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist</b>	<b>Planned Period of Work</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>	<p>Summer 2009</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner with the Health Department to gather accurate and comprehensive information on the health affects of those who worked in the flood zone.</li> <li>2. Attain information of low/no-cost health care available in our area.</li> <li>3. Develop a medium to disperse information to appropriate members of the community.</li> </ol> <p><u>Additional support for BRIGHTEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide leadership and support to BRIGHTEN community events and smaller group projects.</li> <li>• Aid in volunteer recruitment and mobilization.</li> <li>• Assist with BRIGHTEN solicitation efforts.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (date):</b> _____</p>

## AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)—Summer Associate

VISTA Flood Recovery – Cedar Rapids

Focus: Oakhill Jackson Neighborhood  
Resource Center Support

VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist	Planned Period of Work
<p><b>Goal:</b> Due in part to greater-than-average snowfall during the winter of 2007 and greater-than-average rainfall levels during the spring of 2008, massive flooding of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa occurred during the second week of June 2008. The river crested at an unprecedented record level, causing city-wide devastation. Major residential, commercial, and industrial areas, especially those in the flood plain surrounding the river, experienced a significant loss of electrical power, restricted or non-existent sewer and water services, loss of homes, possessions, and business viability, health risks, and displacement hardships. The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed target neighborhoods were especially hard hit, as they are located in downtown Cedar Rapids and other areas directly within or adjacent to the river's flood plain. As the city struggles to assess damages and rebuild, there will be an immense need for resource allocation and assistance. AmeriCorps*VISTA members will partner with various city, county, state and federal authorities and organizations to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding effort.</p> <p><u>Level 1:</u> Coordination of efforts &amp; assessment of needs  <u>Level 2:</u> Alleviation of acute crisis needs – physical resources  <u>Level 3:</u> Assistance with the reestablishment of long-term neighborhood &amp; community viability – continued resource allocation &amp; community-building efforts</p>	<p>Summer 2009</p>
<p><b>Work to restore the viability of the OHJ NRC.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Familiar self with the impact of the flood on the OHJ neighborhood.</li> <li>2. Support the ongoing operations of the OHJ NRC and the NRC Coordinator.</li> <li>3. Work to expand the resources available/services offered at the center.</li> <li>4. Plan a re-opening event for the resource center.</li> <li>5. Work with the Neighborhood Association to plan at least one neighborhood event during 8 week commitment.</li> </ol> <p><u>Additional support for BRIGHTEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide leadership and support to BRIGHTEN community events and smaller group projects.</li> <li>• Aid in volunteer recruitment and mobilization.</li> <li>• Assist with BRIGHTEN solicitation efforts.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>The flood recovery/rebuild process is on-going and needs are still being identified. Individuals will be provided additional instructions as their roles change with the evolving recovery process.</i></p>	<p><b>Completed (date):</b> _____</p>