



Position Description

Volunteer Support Coordinator, Billings Metro VISTA Project (BMVP)

About The Host Site

Founded in 1971, The Friendship Center (TFC) is the #1 community resource for addressing and preventing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson counties. We serve clients of all genders and backgrounds through free and confidential services including shelter, advocacy, and education.

Our mission is to be a safe haven for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking as we empower our community to flourish in relationships free from violence and intimidation. We do our work so that every person in the tri-county area can thrive in safe and healthy relationships. Visit thefriendshipcenter.org to learn more.

VISTA Member Position Overview

Create volunteer-delivered resources which will help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (DVSAS) break the cycle of abuse.

The Volunteer Support Coordinator will help increase access to essential resources for DVSAS victims, including healthcare, housing assistance, legal advocacy, and emergency material items by significantly enhancing TFC's capacity to provide compassionate, holistic care to victims while they heal and rebuild their lives.

The VISTA member will create a plan to strengthen operations through volunteers; improve volunteer recruitment and retention; conduct training, research, and outreach; and bolster community awareness about TFC's services.

Service Term: One-year, full-time commitment beginning **August 25, 2025**

Service Areas: Healthy Futures (Access to Healthcare), Domestic Violence, Employment, Community Outreach

Skills: Volunteer Coordination/Management/Recruitment, Teamwork, Public Speaking, Research, Leadership

Program Benefits

- Monthly living allowance of approximately \$2,050 per month (gross), paid biweekly
- Healthcare benefits
- Relocation assistance (\$0.40 per mile) for 50+ miles from candidate's permanent residence to host site
- Settling-In Allowance of \$725 to help with housing expenses
- Up to \$7,395 for graduate school or to repay student loans OR \$1,800 post-service cash stipend
- Childcare stipend for income-eligible members
- Training opportunities and professional development
- Non-Competitive Eligibility for federal employment after completing service

Eligibility

- Full-year members must have a four-year college degree at the time of placement and must be able to commit to serving on a full-time basis for one year.
- All members must be a U.S. Citizen, National or Legal Resident, and not be listed on the National Sex Offenders Public Registry.
- Service requires full immersion in the project and community. Therefore, full-time employment outside service is discouraged. However, VISTA members are eligible for part-time employment with Host Site and Sponsor approval.
- Access to a reliable car is recommended.

To Apply

Individuals interested in becoming a VISTA member must submit an online application. Visit billingsmt.gov/vistaopps to learn more and apply.

Applications are due by July 11, 2025.

Service Description

Our mission is to provide safe haven for those affected by DVSA and empower our community to flourish in relationships free from violence. Data from the Montana Board of Crime Control Statistical Analysis Center shows that domestic violence remains one of the most frequently reported crimes in Montana: There were 628 Partner and Family Member Assaults in our tri-county service area throughout 2023, including a reported 14 kidnappings and 72 sex offenses.

Because we are the only local organization offering services to those affected by DVSA, TFC serves twice as many survivors as the average domestic violence agency in Montana, assisting more than 700 individuals annually compared to the state average of 354. Domestic violence often has long-term physical and mental health impacts, with the National Health Institute sharing in one study that women suspected of being victims of intimate partner violence have more health problems than the general

population, including 2.7 times higher rates of anxiety disorders and 2.2 times higher rates of major psychiatric disorders.

This one-year VISTA project will help alleviate poverty by addressing the economic barriers that often trap individuals in cycles of abuse. Low- to no-income individuals experiencing domestic violence rarely have the resources needed to break free from it. Abusers frequently exert economic control by restricting access to finances, employment opportunities, transportation, and vital documentation. By increasing TFC's capacity to provide support services through a strong volunteer base, this VISTA member will help us provide immediate relief to survivors as they establish financial independence, stability, and control over their own lives.

Equal Opportunity Employer Statement

The Friendship Center is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer where employment is based upon personal capabilities and qualifications without discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, sex, physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, political beliefs, or any other protected characteristic as established by law.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

The Friendship Center recognizes racism, discrimination, and oppression have contributed to disparities that have existed in the past and persist in the present across our nation and in Montana. We acknowledge those inequities are the result of policies and practices that work to marginalize entire populations of people. We denounce discrimination in all its forms because it undermines the well-being and vitality of our communities. We strive to engage residents and community members, especially those whose voices have traditionally been marginalized, in the shared work of building equity and empowerment. We work with partners to create solutions and ensure that everyone has the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. We believe that diversity drives creativity and innovation, therefore we commit to working towards more equitable communities. We know that having varied perspectives helps generate better ideas to solve the complex problems of an ever-changing and increasingly diverse world.