



2021-2022 AmeriCorps VISTA Member Activities

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) developed 3-year goals aimed at alleviating poverty in the region (see below). The VISTA member will complete activities in multiple program areas to help achieve the goals. The AmeriCorps VISTA member serving from August 2021 to July 2022 will serve 20 hours per week for CVRPC and 20 hours for THRIVE, with supervision provided by CVRPC.

CVRPC is one of 11 Vermont [regional planning commissions](#). CVRPC leverages the power of people working together to assist our member municipalities in providing effective local government and working cooperatively to address regional issues. THRIVE is the region's [Accountable Community for Health](#). It supports the integration of high-quality medical care, mental health and substance use treatment services, and social services for those in need of care to improve population health outcomes. CVRPC is a THRIVE Partner, supporting transportation initiatives, providing facilitation services, and linking THRIVE efforts to municipal strategies and actions.

VISTA 3-YEAR GOALS

- Plan and initiate a regional energy implementation program that engages stakeholders and partners
- Increase access to public transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities by transit dependent populations using inclusive planning methods
- Increase knowledge of and access to affordable housing opportunities
- Increase municipal actions that support provision of and access to quality, affordable childcare opportunities
- Increase access to mobile wireless and broadband services to facilitate services such as the Vermont Health Department's move towards digital appointment scheduling for its clients
- Increase the reach of poverty alleviation programs and service organizations by fostering collaborative actions and programs through multi-sector partnerships.

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2021-2022 ASSIGNMENT

The following list provides a range of initiatives in which the VISTA member may engage. Specific activities of the CVRPC assignment will depend on pandemic recovery and when and how in-person activities resume. Currently, Vermont is expecting to return to full operating capacity by July 2021 with continuation of masking, physical distancing, and other pandemic-related protocols. CVRPC anticipates its office will continue primarily remote operations until September 2021.

Energy: Increase the number and capacity of volunteers working to implement energy programs.

- Plan and facilitate quarterly roundtables of local energy committees, collecting and sharing data about successful local actions.
- Identify and develop tools and templates that support local committee work and regional energy implementation.
- Support staff to write municipal and regional plans that integrate energy issues into economic, housing, health, and transportation.

Mobility: Increase access to and use of transportation options beyond use of single occupancy vehicles.

- Support CVRPC transportation and energy initiatives that foster transit ridership, carpooling, walking, and bicycling.
- Conduct an inventory of the region’s sidewalks, paths, and trails and support development of a regional connectivity forum.
- Work with the Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (REDPAC) and Vermont Agency of Transportation to prepare short video documentation of transit riders’ stories.
- Assess unmet need among elders and persons with disabilities target populations in the region and integrate those needs with the unmet needs of other underserved populations in the region. Develop materials with the REDPAC to communicate results and conduct follow-up activities.
- Plan and implement events and activities to increase awareness of the region’s transportation options and how to use them. Examples include giving presentations at senior centers, caregiver trainings, and high schools, and participating in events sponsored by partners and other local organizations for older adults and people with disabilities to share transportation information.

Housing: Increase actions municipalities take to encourage development of affordable housing.

- Update CVRPC’s municipal water and wastewater inventory to support planning of where housing would be most affordable.
- Support update of the Regional Plan housing element to reflect changes occurring as part of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Childcare: Increase actions municipalities take to encourage development of quality, affordable childcare services.

- Build an “idea guide” based on current and potential municipal plans actions and other sources, such as Let’s Grow Kids and Building Bright Futures.
- Team with CVRPC staff and partners to develop a childcare access analysis for incorporation into the Regional Plan and municipal plans.
- Present the analysis and guide to municipal staff at a planning and zoning roundtable and other venues.

Wireless and Broadband: Increase the ability of municipalities to plan and implement improvements to telecommunications infrastructure.

- Strengthen the operating capacity of [CVFiber](#), a nascent [Communications Union District](#), by supporting its governing body and committees via taking meeting minutes, writing grant

applications, and fostering connections between its activities and those of CVPRC and Central Vermont municipalities.

- Use the results of a 2019 mobile wireless service assessment to facilitate expansion of mobile wireless service by integrating it into local and regional plans and fostering service expansion planning efforts.

THRIVE: Strengthen the capacity of the THRIVE partnership to work cooperatively to alleviate poverty.

- Support monthly meetings of the THRIVE Leadership and Community partners and committees by assisting Chairs to organize meetings, develop agendas, take meeting minutes, complete follow-up actions, distribute information to THRIVE participants, and manage Base Camp site postings and other communications.
- Support further development and implementation of THRIVE's Strategic Action Plan, including gathering and analyzing data and assisting committees to set goals, prioritize strategies, and put those strategies into action. In 2021, THRIVE is developing strategies to address health and wellbeing of individuals who are homeless, food security, financial security, and social connectivity/digital equity.