**VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)**

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| **Title:**  New Mexico Cyber Security Cluster Development VISTA Volunteer |
| **Sponsoring Organization:**  U.S. Economic Development Administration and North Central New Mexico Economic Development District**Project Name:** New Mexico Cyber Security Cluster Development**Project Number:**  16VSWX003**Project Period:**  11/06/2017 – 11/05/2018  |
| **Site Name (if applicable):** Albuquerque or Santa Fe, flexible depending on candidate |
| **Focus Area(s)****Primary:**  Economic Opportunity**Secondary:** Regionalism |

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| **VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities** |
| **Goal of the Project:** The Year One objective of this VISTA project is to create a cyber security cluster business development plan for the State of New Mexico. |
| **Objectives of the Assignment (*November 2017 – November 2018)**** **Month 1.** Prepare a comparative analysis of national and state policies and economic development strategies pertaining to this cluster. Collect and study cyber security sector legislation and reports. Compile elements of state policy and program into matrices showing how different states handle each element.
* **Month 1.** Work with Congressional delegation offices to develop a cyber security federal funding and contracting pipeline calendar;
* **Month 2.** Research and diagram the State’s corporate cyber security institutional landscape to include description and contact information for all private sector firms and public agencies working in the area; supporting institutions; educational programs; investment firms.
* **Month 3.** Inventory cyber security tech transfer opportunities locally, nationally, and globally;
* **Month 4.** Identify and utilize intelligent methods to rapidly create thumbnail assessments of submarket potentials with an emphasis on publicly available market research. Evaluate potential subsector emphases for possible niche market targeting, i.e. national security, medical devices, electrical grid protection, corporate education and training services, etc.  Create industry factsheets summarizing major growth opportunities for review by cluster stakeholders.
* **Month 5.** Develop a cyber security business resources development brochure or guidebook using this material.
* **Months 6-8.** Benchmark and utilize technology-oriented business retention and expansion best practices. Develop a state-of-the-art model and implement it through the Councils of Government in each of the state’s seven economic development regions. Outreach to 4-8 key cyber security firms, labs, and support institutions in each region.
	+ Educate stakeholders about cluster activities. Distribute guidebooks.
	+ Identify, address, and document immediate individual business survival needs;
	+ Through interviews assessing the entire cyber security value chain, create a “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats” matrix for the cluster; and
	+ Document customer-driven short-, medium, and long-term recommendations for action in a working draft sector business development model for the state.
* **Months 9-12.** Create a cyber security business development action plan for the State of New Mexico.
	+ Around working drafts of a business model, coordinate stakeholder meetings as needed to engage plan refinement and develop priorities and commitments pertaining to widely perceived priority next steps action plan.
	+ Coordinate with the State Science and Technology Office, New Mexico Technology Council and other key stakeholders to adjust research activities formatting of project material into usable work products usable in cyber security cluster development activity such as a possible amendment of the State’s Science and Technology Plan (EDD) or Cyber Security Cluster Action Plan (NMTC)
* **All Months.** Prepare monthly VISTA project progress reports.

**Hiring Timeline*** August 10: Opportunity Listings and VADs due
* September 15: All interviewing complete
* September 25: VISTA Selection Finalized
* November 6: VISTA Start of Service
	+ Pre-Service Orientation, Nov 6-9
	+ Start in office Nov 13
* November 20-21: AURO Orientation in Denver

**Benefits*** If you have any interest in launching your career or starting your business in cyber security in the Land of Enchantment, this is your ticket. For a year, working with one of the best career development mentors EVER, you’ll have a chance to work with the leading technologist in government, federal laboratories, and private firms on solving up-to-the-minute cyber security business development challenges. Your specialized skills will be highly appreciated and valued here.
* Monthly living stipend of $990/month;
* Employer is seeking funding to provide housing stipend of $250/month;
* After a successful year of service, VISTAs can choose to receive either a $1,500 stipend or a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award equal to the maximum amount of the federal Pell Grant (the current amount of the Pell Grant is $5,775)
* Volunteer position benefits include health care, child care, training, and liability insurance.
* Once a VISTA successfully completes service that VISTA will receive one year of non-competitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. This special hiring status enables the former VISTA to apply for federal jobs with the advantage of not having to go through the standard public competitive selection process. That means that you can be appointed to federal positions that may or may not be available to the general public. If you want to work for the federal government, this benefit doesn’t guarantee you a job, but it scores you valuable points needed to get it. It’s probably THE most valuable benefit of service to anyone who wants to work with the federal government once their VISTA assignment is finished.
* Depending on where you’re coming from and where you’ll serve, you may be eligible for relocation benefits.

**Contact**For further information about this opportunity contact:Scott Beckman, Community Development ManagerNorth Central New Mexico Economic Development District3900 Paseo del Sol, Santa Fe, NM 87507 (505) 395-2676cid:image002.jpg@01D30D2A.1993F1F0 |