



Using VISTAs to Expand Your Anti-Hunger Work

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**ANTI-HUNGER &
OPPORTUNITY CORPS**

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
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What is the Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps?

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ANTI-HUNGER & OPPORTUNITY CORPS

A project of HUNGER FREE AMERICA



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How are AHOC VISTAs involved with anti-hunger work?

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Assessing Barriers to Access

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Anne Leibold
Catholic Community Service of Northern Utah
Utah



Anne designed and administered client surveys so that she could evaluate the community's experience with SNAP. From her findings came the Food Stamp Report, the purpose of which was to build a common understanding and foundation for community and faith-based organizations across northern Utah to address local issues around SNAP participation by enhancing systems and their components including informational materials and volunteer/staff trainings. This report analyzed data from 514 surveys and compared the demographics between SNAP participation in Utah, Weber county, and the nation. Anne used the results to identify areas where further investigation or improvements are possible.

Member Highlights

- 1) Surveyed community members first to identify barriers to access, as well as successes and failures of current and past efforts.
- 2) Targeted areas of need and organizations to reach desired population.
- 3) Tailored workshops and educational sessions to meet the needs of populations they are serving.



Training Staff and Partner Organizations

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Emma LeBlanc
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention
Maine



Emma worked closely with the Residents Services Coordinators at low-income senior housing centers to bring awareness of SNAP benefits to the residents by giving presentations. After building a strong partnership with the Residents Services Coordinators and training them to conduct screenings senior housing centers, it was brought to her attention that many seniors had high medical costs and needed more information the excess medical deduction in Maine. After giving the presentation, she had attendees complete a brief post presentation survey and found that they thought the was and if they could not use it themselves, they would share it with their friends and neighbors.

Member Highlights

- 1) Surveyed community members first to identify barriers to access, as well as successes and failures of current and past efforts.
- 2) Consistently developed relationships and partnerships with organizations with overlapping missions, offering similar services or reaching the same targeted population.
- 3) Actively marketed the program with positive language and informative facts to educate staff members and partners.



Educating Community Members

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Melanie Bonds
Roadrunner Food Bank
Albuquerque, NM



Melanie created informational flyers on SNAP E&T using easy to understand language. These flyers were distributed to food bank clients, as well as partner agencies, to inform the community about changes taking place, program requirements, and employment & training opportunities available to them.

Member Highlights

1. Identified the target audience and partnerships that would help reach desired population
2. Used various means and methods to educate community members versus a one size fit all approach
3. Advertised program offerings as much as possible to community members and groups
4. Created incentives and compelling activities for higher program participation amongst community members

Additional roles for VISTAs

- Capacity Building and Sustainability
 - Fundraising (grant writing, soliciting donations)
 - Creating or maintaining volunteer management systems
 - Program development and coordination
 - Partnership development
 - Recruitment (volunteers, program participants, etc.)



Want to learn more or become a partner? Contact Amanda at ACowgill@HungerFreeAmerica.org or 212.825.0028 ext. 233