



In May 2013, the [Charleston Area Service Collaborative](#) awarded Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) an Americorps\*VISTA position for the 2013-14 year to increase the number of parents and families involved in our programs and initiatives.

#### Americorps\*VISTA Overview:

***The Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program*** places individuals in nonprofit organizations and public agencies to support efforts to fight poverty. Through the years more than 180,000 individuals, known as VISTAs, have committed at least one year of full-time service to low-income communities in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. [Learn more about Americorps\\*VISTA.](#)

#### Organization Overview:

The Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) is a progressive nonprofit organization inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone to create a seamless continuum of wrap-around prenatal-to-college services. Through collaborative, multi-year funding support from the cities of Charleston, North Charleston, Charleston County, the Charleston County School District (CCSD), and philanthropic investors, we have formed a unique comprehensive public/private partnership focused on improving parenting, education, employment, housing, healthcare and community revitalization in the 5.6 square mile area of Charleston County, South Carolina that straddles portions of the cities of Charleston and North Charleston. In an effort to improve education outcomes for students in our Neighborhood and in partnership with the Charleston County School District, CCSD created the CPN Zone Learning Community consisting of Mary Ford Elementary, Chicora Elementary, James Simons Elementary, and Sanders-Clyde Elementary/Middle. More information at [www.charlestonpromise.org](http://www.charlestonpromise.org).

#### AmeriCorps\*VISTA Parent Engagement Developer Opportunity

This Americorps\*VISTA opportunity will engage parents as we strive to develop our "parenting" strand of focus to improve academic outcomes, health, and community.

#### Objectives:

- To increase the number of parents/families involved in current CPN programs and initiatives to enable more parent participation, support, advocacy, and leadership in the community
- To research parent engagement models to enable CPN to develop additional strategies
- To work with potential partners to explore and develop opportunities for collaboration, resource development, and grant writing.

#### Duties:

1. Develop and implement a plan to address the different types of parent involvement including Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning at home, Decision making, and Collaborating with the community. This will include:

- a. Researching evidenced-based models, with a particular focus on other Promise Neighborhoods.
  - b. Creating a summary of findings outlining 4-6 models.
  - c. Working with CPN team to prioritize and initiate contact with selected groups.
2. Support CPN's efforts to promote the KidsWell school-based health services to parents and families.
  3. Support Health screenings - Assist with plans and recruiting partners to support back-to-school events designed to increase parent involvement and participation
  4. Extend Health Literacy by recruiting other partners to deliver programs
  5. Build Parent Education - create a parent resource guide outlining resources for ADHD, Asthma, doctors that take Medicaid and Title I vouchers, etc. .
  6. Create other Parenting Outreach opportunities
  7. Work with CPN's Community Engagement Council, develop other ideas to bring parent engagement activities to the families where they reside and live
  8. Work with potential partners to explore joint planning, resource development, and grant writing so the work can be sustained

[Apply for the Americorps\\*VISTA position online.](#) You must apply online. If you have any questions, please email [info@charlestonpromise.org](mailto:info@charlestonpromise.org) with Americorps VISTA Parent Engagement in the Subject Line. No phone calls please.