



## VISTA MEMBER POSITION DESCRIPTION

**Organization Name:**

City of Billings, Community Development Division

**VISTA Project Name:**

**Billings Area Resource Network (BARN)**

### **Organization Description**

The Billings Area Resource Network (BARN) is a partnership of service provider agencies and individuals who seek to actively address the many issues associated with homelessness. Organizational committees within the BARN include: Treatment/Housing, Development/Advocacy, Systems Transition, Coordination of Services, and the Project Homeless Connect Planning Committee. These committees meet on a regular basis to further the mission of the BARN, which is to “help create functional and dynamic partnerships between area service providers to increase advocacy efforts for the homeless.” Recently, BARN members also assisted the Mayor’s Committee on Homelessness in establishing the City of Billings’ ten-year plan to impact homelessness.

The BARN is [developing strategic plans](#) to better address homelessness in Billings by: increasing agency collaboration, reducing barriers to service, bridging gaps in services, and minimizing duplication of services. Over thirty nonprofit and government organizations, business owners, and community advocates have committed to work together to impact homelessness. Although BARN members have a wide variety of social service, business and community-based backgrounds, they are united by their belief that “all individuals deserve to have their basic needs met with respect and dignity.”

### **VISTA Project Goal**

The goal of this VISTA project is to expand BARN membership and to build sustainable capacity for this organization’s efforts including facilitation of and resource generation for BARN’s primary major event, Project Homeless Connect, a one-day, one-stop event that offers a wide-variety of free services to Billings homeless and near-homeless community members.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Committed for one-year service to this National Service program
- Indicate a growing passion for the mission of decreasing homelessness in Billings
- Possess basic understanding of strategic planning, community organization and community development/empowerment
- Ability to communicate effectively (both in writing and orally)
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- Computer skills and knowledge of some software (WORD, Excel, Power Point, etc.)
- Ability to work with diverse generations, incomes and cultures

***Key Duties & Roles***

- Work with key stakeholders to develop a strategy for expanding our local Continuum of Care.
- Assist in the development of sustainable efforts by BARN's Project Homeless Connect Sub-Committee.
- Assist in strategic planning to increase BARN's development and organizational capacity
- Coordinate efforts to implement resulting action plans.

***Key Objectives to be met through the fulfillment of the Key Duties and Roles***

All BARN member organizations endeavor to meet the basic needs of their clients in a respectful and dignified manner. Through increased collaboration, BARN members are able to reduce barriers and bridge gaps in service more quickly and efficiently with the goal of identifying and overcoming the particular issues and obstacles faced by individual clients served to help them move out of their poverty situation. This VISTA member is expected to greatly enhance BARN's service capacity. The results of this VISTA member's service are expected to include the development or improvement of five client services for approximately 500 individuals and the development of resource generation including 30 new volunteers and financial resources valued at approximately \$100,000.