The North Mississippi VISTA Project at the University of Mississippi seeks seven dynamic individuals to serve as VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America). Each of these full-time, one-year placements is supported by AmeriCorps with a modest living allowance, health benefits, and an education award. VISTAs will work throughout North Mississippi to build sustainable systems for fighting poverty through education. Overviews of available VISTA positions are listed below.

- **VISTA in the DeSoto County Youth Court**, Hernando, MS: The VISTA will develop a mentoring program to serve low-income children who pass through the youth court. Specifically, the VISTA will work closely with the Court Judge to continue development of sustainable mechanisms for recruiting, training, and placing local mentors.

- **VISTA at Excel Commons**, Okolona, MS: The VISTA will develop a computer skills curriculum to prepare learners for the updated GED testing format. The VISTA will research and/or develop a job readiness program, and work with local volunteers to implement it. The VISTA will also assist with the researching and writing of grants to build the capacity of this important organization.

- **VISTA in the Luckyday Program at the University of Mississippi**, Oxford Campus: The VISTA will report to the director of the Luckyday Program and will work to strengthen partnerships with local poverty-fighting organizations. The VISTA will develop service projects and will recruit Luckyday alumni to volunteer alongside current Luckyday scholars.

- **VISTA in the School of Education at the University of Mississippi**, Oxford Campus: The VISTA will connect UM resources and expertise to educators in underperforming schools across Mississippi. The VISTA will strengthen existing programs, including FAFSA workshops and the SoE service field trip. The VISTA will also support the Jumpstart pilot, which enhances pre-K for low-income children.

- **VISTA at the Institute of Community Service/Head Start**, Holly Springs, MS: The VISTA will build assessment and progress reporting mechanisms to support School Readiness Goals. The VISTA will develop tracking systems to promote achievement for low-income children. The VISTA will also build partnerships and recruit volunteers for Head Start (pre-K) centers around north Mississippi.

- **VISTA at the Lafayette County Literacy Council**, Oxford, MS: The VISTA will support the development of a new adult education initiative by collecting data on existing services and identifying community need. The VISTA will research tutoring methodology, establish a system for recruiting and training volunteers, and pursue financial support to make the program sustainable.

- **VISTA at the Community Foundation of NW MS**, Hernando, MS: The VISTA will develop food education programs for low-income families. The VISTA will strengthen the foundation’s new food hub, expanding that network to underserved areas, while also creating ways to educate and connect local farmers with low-income consumers.

To learn more about AmeriCorps VISTA and to apply for one or more of these listings, please visit: [https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=41879](https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=41879)

Be sure to apply specifically to the North MS VISTA Project (listing #41879). Questions? Please contact Susan Nicholas at nicholas@olemiss.edu (662-915-1905) or Lauryn Duvalle at liduvall@olemiss.edu