



**International Rescue Committee
Micro-Enterprise AmeriCorps*VISTA Job Announcement
Volunteering to Assist the Lives Of Refugees**

Project Description

The International Rescue Committee, founded in 1933, is a leading non-sectarian, non-profit organization providing emergency relief, protection, rehabilitation assistance, resettlement services and advocacy for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. The IRC AmeriCorps*VISTA project is designed to develop innovative programs locally that give refugees the tools they need to become self-reliant and integrated into their communities.

The IRC Micro-Enterprise Program offers a wide range of business development and microfinance options to assist low-income refugee entrepreneurs with starting or expanding a small business. The Program offers small business loans up to \$15,000, small business marketing services, 1-on-1 technical assistance, and an in-home childcare business training program.

Micro-Enterprise AmeriCorps*VISTA

Under the supervision of the Micro-Enterprise Program Manager in San Diego, the Micro-Enterprise VISTA will work with the Micro-Enterprise Program to expand program services for the refugee population living in El Cajon, California. The Micro-Enterprise AmeriCorps*VISTA member will:

1. Conduct Outreach and Recruitment – The VISTA will conduct outreach and recruitment of new Micro-Enterprise Program participants in El Cajon. This will include visiting local refugee-owned businesses, as well as developing strategic partnerships with community leaders and community organizations.
2. Develop New Micro-Enterprise Program Components – The VISTA will work to develop new Micro-enterprise initiatives to support the refugee entrepreneur community in El Cajon. This will include hosting classroom workshops on small business topics, such as child care, arts & crafts, or other popular industries.
3. Microfinance Lending– The VISTA will work to assist refugee entrepreneurs in El Cajon with accessing small business loans as needed to start or expand their business. This will include conducting outreach and recruitment, guiding refugees through the loan application process, assisting with loan underwriting and loan packaging. The VISTA will also work with Micro-Enterprise staff to develop sector-specific loan products.

Recommended skills and qualifications include:

1. Bachelors degree in related field
2. Bilingual English and Arabic preferred
3. Previous experience working with refugees and/or small business owners preferred
4. Strong written and oral communication skills
5. Proactive and motivated
6. Ability to work independently and in team setting
7. Ability to manage multiple projects at the same time - highly organized and detail oriented
8. Ability to communicate and collaborate with a wide variety of individuals (refugees, community development organizations, businesses) in a professional manner.
9. Must be willing to commit to one year as a full-time volunteer with AmeriCorps*VISTA and IRC and have no outside professional or educational commitments.

To apply, please submit resume and cover letter to Joel Chrisco, Microenterprise Program Manager.

joel.chrisco@Rescue.org

IRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer IRC considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status or disability.