



## Minnesota VISTA Tenant Organizer Positions to Engage Tenants in At-Risk Affordable Housing

HOME Line seeks individuals to organize tenants in privately-owned, multifamily developments subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to save and improve their homes as affordable housing. The positions are through Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a federal program which pays full-time VISTA Volunteers a one year renewable stipend to empower people in low income communities. The tenant organizers will assist, inform, educate, and engage tenants living in buildings that are at risk of loss of affordability, assist in campaigns to preserve HUD-assisted affordable housing. **These positions require a person who relates well to a variety of people, has experience in and respect for developing grassroots leaders, and is comfortable representing the organization.**

HOME Line is a non-profit, non-partisan, statewide tenant advocacy organization with over 24 years of experience providing free legal advice and education to renters. Our primary program, a statewide legal hotline, served over 14,000 renter households in 2015. HOME Line also organizes renters to preserve and improve their housing and advocate for proactive tenant rights policies.

### Responsibilities:

- Assist with identifying and prioritizing eligible buildings for outreach and tenant engagement
- Engage in door-to-door outreach, identify and recruit tenant leaders to help form or strengthen independent tenant associations
- Provide training on HUD subsidy issues, Minnesota tenant/landlord law, and leadership development
- Coordinate tenant efforts to engage owners, public officials, and HUD and other agencies
- Tracking of organizing and capacity-building efforts
- Coordinate work with EJW VISTA Legal Fellow at local organization Housing Justice Center
- Support the broader mission of the placement organization, including assistance on our tenant hotline

### Qualifications:

- Commitment to social change and empowerment of lower-income people
- At least one year work or volunteer experience in community/grassroots organizing and outreach
- Ability to understand and translate complex issues into understandable terms
- Ability to read and write clearly and concisely
- Experience in planning and conducting meetings and comfortable with speaking in front of groups
- Ability and willingness to work with diverse groups of people and engage in door-to-door outreach
- Willingness to learn HUD subsidy rules and Minnesota landlord/tenant law
- Availability to work evenings and weekends as needed
- Spanish, Somali, or Hmong bilingual language skills preferred
- Access to reliable transportation, occasionally outside of business hours and outside metro area

VISTA Volunteers are paid a monthly stipend of approximately \$900 in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area and an education award of \$5,730 annually for each year of service, or an alternative cash stipend of a lesser amount. Volunteers receive a VISTA Healthcare Allowance, mileage reimbursement, 10 vacation/personal days, 10 sick days, and a monthly housing allowance to help with rent. If you are already receiving public assistance (such as Social Security, food stamps, or housing subsidy), your eligibility and level of assistance should not be affected and the stipend is excluded income in HUD subsidized rental housing. VISTAs can defer student loans during their service year. Americorps has recently [revised policies on outside employment](#), meaning a VISTA is allowed to supplement their Americorps stipend with another job.

[More information about the VISTA Affordable Housing Preservation Project \(VAHPP\) is here.](#)

**Application Deadline is April 18, 2016**

Positions begin in May 2016

**To Apply: Please send a cover letter and resume to Eric Hauge at [erich@homelinemn.org](mailto:erich@homelinemn.org).**