

Pendleton Chamber of Commerce Job Posting

Pendleton is a historic city in Umatilla County, Oregon, where tourism is a key component of our local economy. The county is bordered on the north by the Columbia River and is home to the Umatilla, Wallowa and Whitman national forests. Despite its historic charm and beautiful geographic location, Umatilla County is an economically distressed county as prescribed by Oregon law. Between 2000 and 2007, Umatilla County population grew only 4% and the number of poor grew by 19%. This increase has been further compounded by the recession. The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce has identified the need for an AmeriCorps VISTA to evaluate, improve and expand our local tourism, an effort that is critical to undertake to address the economic downturn and reduce poverty. The VISTA will work to strengthen existing local events and will research and assess opportunities for new events.

Member Duties: The AmeriCorps VISTA will evaluate Pendleton's existing tourism events and will develop and implement a plan that will take these events to the next level in their effectiveness. In addition, the VISTA will scope out and research opportunities for new events and venues. The VISTA will work with community stakeholders to cultivate a spirit of collaboration among the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations and businesses to reach a common goal of increased economic stability.

Essential duties include:

- Coordinate economic development stakeholder meetings in effort to gather information on community needs and potentially develop new event partnerships
- Determine feasibility of utilizing local workforce development programs for recruitment of low income individuals to assist with event planning and/or implementation
- Meet with organizers of existing events to evaluate strengths and weaknesses and determine potential for growth. Draft a written report of recommendations and submit to Chamber's economic development committee
- Create a database of potential venues and events
- Identify funding and/or sponsorship sources for future events
- Prioritize potential new events and work with the Chamber's economic development committee to plan and implement one new event, as well as develop event's program materials.

Program Benefits:

Childcare Assistance (if eligible), Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend, health coverage, living allowance, relocation allowance, training

Terms: Prohibits paid work outside of the sponsoring agency at any time

Service Areas: Community and Economic Development, Communications, Community Outreach, Entrepreneur/Business, Public Safety, Technology

Skills: Business/Entrepreneur, Communications, Community Organization, Computers/Technology, Leadership, Public Speaking, Recruitment, Writing/Editing, General Skills