



## AmeriCorps VISTA Members Love Your Block

### About Cities of Service

A national nonprofit organization, [Cities of Service](#) helps mayors and city leaders tap the knowledge, creativity, and service of citizens to solve public problems and create vibrant cities. The organization provides technical assistance, programmatic support, planning resources, and funding opportunities to cities and their leadership.

Founded in 2009 by New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Cities of Service was initially incubated within Bloomberg Philanthropies and began operating as an independent entity in February 2014. Today, Cities of Service supports a coalition of more than 240 cities whose mayors and chief executives represent nearly 65 million people in 45 states, and more than 10 million people in the UK.

### Position Overview

Cities of Service is seeking [AmeriCorps VISTA members](#) to serve in ten city halls as part of its new Love Your Block program starting in **November 2018**.

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin:** The Milwaukee Love Your Block VISTA Member will engage residents at the block level to address blight and preserve and promote homeownership in City neighborhoods. This will include working with residents to create a block level “toolkit” to promote and enhance current City efforts related to resident driven neighborhood projects, e.g., neighborhood marketing efforts for City owned properties, vacant lot improvements, decorative board up projects, and minor home improvement resources for residents on blocks with foreclosed properties.

Love your Block is a high-impact service strategy that connects city leaders with community residents to help revitalize their neighborhoods one block at a time. Typically, city officials provide mini-grants that support volunteer-fueled solutions developed by the community. Whether turning vacant lots into community gardens, removing graffiti, or helping elderly neighbors with simple home repairs that allow them to keep their homes, citizen volunteers are making their neighborhoods – and their cities – better places to live.

Love Your Block AmeriCorps VISTA members will plan, develop, and implement impact volunteering and community engagement initiatives that target blight. Responsibilities will include: Plan and host community meetings; Develop a mini-grant process with supporting materials; Conduct outreach through grant application info sessions in target neighborhoods; Assist Love Your Block project leaders in the recruitment and management of community volunteers; Cultivate partnerships among stakeholders such as community organizations, city agencies, nonprofit organizations, neighborhoods associations, and block groups; Maintain a database of Love Your Block projects and partners; Write stories about the impact of the Love Your Block projects; Interview community members affected by Love Your Block projects; and Secure funding to sustain and expand Love Your Block.



#### Duration and Compensation

This is a one-year, full-time AmeriCorps VISTA commitment commencing in November 2018. A stipend is provided and an additional end of service award is provided contingent on successful completion of the service year.

#### To Apply

To express interest in the position, please email your resume and cover letter to [VISTA@citiesofservice.org](mailto:VISTA@citiesofservice.org). Position listings are live on My AmeriCorps and applications will be taken through October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.