

## VISTA TENANT ORGANIZER FOR AT-RISK HUD AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Date: January 16, 2018

**About Host Organization:** Pratt Area Community Council, Inc. (DBA) IMPACCT Brooklyn, is a passionate advocate, educator, and catalyst for helping residents build flourishing communities in Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Bedford Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, and beyond. Check out our website at [impacctbk.org](http://impacctbk.org).

### About the HUD VISTA Tenant Organizer Position:

The VISTA tenant organizer position is either a one year or two year position funded by the federal housing agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of a national tenant organizing program. The tenant organizer 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, and participate in a national movement to preserve at-risk affordable housing with the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT). We are seeking a VISTA Tenant Organizer to carry out outreach, education, and organizing work associated with this grant. The tenant organizer will:

- engage in door-to-door outreach, identify and recruit tenant leaders to help form or strengthen independent tenant associations or organizing committees that meet HUD standards in 3-4 targeted Section 8 developments per year, averaging 150 apartments per development;
- with Supervisor, provide training in tenants' rights, HUD housing subsidies, and organizational and leadership development to targeted tenant associations;
- help tenants identify critical areas of need and goals and strategies for selected buildings;
- coordinate tenant efforts to engage owners, public officials, and HUD and other agencies to preserve and improve targeted properties;
- assist tenant associations in networking and building alliances with other tenant associations and allies in their local areas and nationwide;
- assist targeted tenant associations in obtaining services through negotiation with owners and referrals to other agencies;
- assist sponsor in raising funds for at least one tenant leader from targeted buildings to attend the June NAHT training conference in Washington, DC;
- participate in at least 3/4 of bi-weekly NAHT Network training calls and NAHT Network task forces, as appropriate;
- help plan and arrange for tenant participation in regional "Eyes and Ears" meetings between tenant associations and HUD Headquarters and Regional staff, as appropriate;
- develop written reports on "best practices" and victory stories and related materials to share with project partners and tenant associations;
- track the number of organizations and tenants that receive capacity building services through an activity log;
- track increased requests for organizing assistance made to local sponsoring organizations;
- Support the broader goals and mission of the placement organization.
- become adept at identifying eligible buildings for outreach, organizing, and tenant engagement and prioritize buildings at risk due to expiring contracts and/or substandard physical or social conditions;

The VISTA Tenant Organizer will be supervised by the Director of Organizing and work very collaboratively with and receive support and guidance from other IMPACCT organizing staff members.

## **Qualifications:**

The ideal candidate will have:

- A commitment to social change;
- At least one year of grassroots organizing experience, ideally tenant organizing;
- basic knowledge of issues related to affordable housing preservation, and ideally more in-depth knowledge about concrete strategies for preserving HUD-assisted housing;
- strong written and verbal communication skills;
- exceptional time and priority management skills; and
- Be professional, confident, personable, highly motivated, well organized, and detail oriented.

## **Stipend:**

The VISTA program provides a stipend of \$15,312, health insurance, and a \$5,730 Educational Stipend is available upon completion of the program

## **To Apply:**

Send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to [Jennifer\\_Berkley@IMPACCTBK.org](mailto:Jennifer_Berkley@IMPACCTBK.org) as soon as possible. Deadline is Jan. 22, 2018.

For more information about the program, see <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/VAHPP>. *HUD tenants are encouraged to apply.*