The Organization

As one of the few global languages, soccer has the power to shape the world for the better. Soccer Without Borders (SWB) uses soccer as a vehicle for positive change, providing under-served youth in the U.S. and abroad with a toolkit to overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion, and personal success. Founded in 2006, Soccer Without Borders has reached over 15,000 young people in 12 countries on four continents, and has been recognized with the FIFA Diversity Award, the Lipman Family Prize, and the Robert Wood Johnson Sports Award. With a focus on social inclusion of newcomer youth and girls, our holistic programs provide participants with a platform for positive engagement, an avenue for personal growth, and a toolkit for a brighter future.

We envision a more inclusive world through soccer, where all youth have the opportunity to reach their potential. Global displacement currently affects more than 1 in every 100 people in the world. Newcomer youth arrive in the United States from all over the world, many fleeing some of the world’s most protracted conflicts. SWB has been serving the refugee and immigrant community across the United States since 2008 with a culture of welcoming and belonging that supports newcomers to build a new home. We currently serve over 1300 youth annually through school year and summer programs that include soccer, education, and community activities.

The Position

Soccer Without Borders is seeking a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning VISTA that will help bring Soccer Without Borders and the organization’s impact to the next level by building and improving systems for program monitoring, evaluation, and development. The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning VISTA will serve as a key member of the Collective Impact Team, which supports national, cross-program infrastructure to enable effective and efficient program implementation. The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning VISTA will be part of the Collective Impact Team, based out of SWB Colorado or SWB Maryland.

Roles Expectations and Responsibilities

The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning VISTA at Soccer Without Borders will be part of the 2022 Up2Us Sports VISTA cohort.

This position is a unique opportunity to build the skills and experience of supporting a growing national and global organization with a shared purpose of a more inclusive and equitable world through soccer. This position has three primary areas of responsibility:
Program Monitoring & Monthly Report Management: At SWB, we emphasize and prioritize the monitoring of our programs in order to best report on and understand our impact in our communities. How can we best measure the impact of our programs on our participants? The VISTA will monitor program hours, retention, and engagement through our data collection system, TraxSolutions, and share reports on impact with the Collective Impact Team and Community Hubs. The VISTA will also take ownership of the monthly report process and ensure the full reach of programming is captured.

Impact Evaluation & Analysis: Our programs work with participants speaking a diversity of languages. To best capture SWB’s impact on these participants, it is important to provide tools, resources, and evaluative processes in more than just English. How can we capture the impact on our participants who still have limited English-speaking ability? The VISTA will lead in the translation of our annual participant survey, will support focus groups, and will update the non-English data collections tools and ensure a high degree of data quality resulting from those tools.

Program Support & Development: The Collective Impact Team works directly with every Community Hub & SWB-led program and is always seeking to increase capacity to support those programs across the organization. A key to increasing this capacity is improving the programs’ ability to better monitor and collect qualitative and quantitative data and better understand how to report that data and share with necessary stakeholders. How can we improve programs’ capacity to collect and report on this data? The VISTA will collaborate with the Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, as well as the M&E Captains at each Community Hub, to map out the data already collected within each program, the data that each program needs to collect for grant reporting requirements, and the best way to streamline data collection.

The ideal candidate for this role:

1. **Is proficient in Spanish and motivated to improve monitoring and impact evaluation among multi-lingual participants and young leaders, with a focus on Spanish speakers.** This person has an understanding of the newcomer experience and is eager to use their Spanish-speaking ability to contribute to more inclusive monitoring and evaluation tools and processes.

2. **Is a team player that is energized by collaborating with others to solve problems, but is also self-motivated and committed to self-directed learning.** This person enjoys working with others to find solutions, but is also motivated to work on their own. The ideal person has previous experience working on a team, and brings an open, creative mind to problem solving. The ideal person also seeks to learn through multiple avenues: coworkers, external people, experience, projects, questions, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and meetings.

3. **Is a systems builder motivated by improving processes through technology.** This person is detail-oriented and likes to analyze and organize data and find ways to improve data quality. The ideal person is proficient in computer software and considers technology to be their friend and is a quick learner of new technology.
Bonus points for those who have mastered any of SWB’s current technology systems (TraxSolutions, Google Office, Microsoft Excel, Canva).

4. Is committed to building a more inclusive and equitable world through soccer. This person is eager to contribute to the evaluation of Soccer Without Borders’ impact. The ideal person connects to the mission in a meaningful way.

If this sounds like you, we want to hear from you! We believe that valuable and relevant experience comes in many forms so if you do not have all of these qualifications but believe you are a great fit, please tell us why!

In order to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, AmeriCorps requires that (1) members are 18 years or older and (2) hold one of the following citizenship or legal residency statuses: US citizen, US National, Lawful Permanent Resident (i.e., Green Card status), and persons legally residing within a state (i.e., refugee, asylee, DACA).

Time and Compensation

This position is an AmeriCorps VISTA term of service. This is a full-time, year-long term of service, beginning in February 2022 and ending in February 2023. As an AmeriCorps VISTA, the Program Impact Evaluation VISTA will receive an annual living stipend of $15,994 (paid twice a year), monthly housing stipend, health care coverage, and an Education Award of $6,345 after successful completion of the term. All benefits are detailed on the AmeriCorps VISTA website.

Interested?

Soccer Without Borders encourages persons of any race, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, and background to apply. Please send a resume and a short explanation for why you are interested in the position to Bridget Black, Monitoring & Evaluation Manager at bblack@soccerwithoutborders.org. The short explanation should detail why you think you are a good fit for this position and what parts of the SWB mission you most connect to. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed as they are received, so we encourage interested applicants to apply early. To help us with our process, please put "SWB Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning VISTA" in the subject line.