

VISSTA

The Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA) is a collaborative effort among the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Social Work, Area Training Centers (ATCs) and other partnering agencies and universities.

VCU-VISSTA's educational efforts are designed to increase knowledge, build skills, and improve the effectiveness of social services staff in their day-to-day work. VISSTA's goal is to make consistent, quality, competency-based learning opportunities readily available to human service workers in Virginia.

VCU-VISSTA training supports the policies and philosophy of VDSS in seven program areas: Adult Services, Child Care, Child Welfare, Fraud, Domestic Violence, Employment Services, and Benefit Programs. VCU-VISSTA curricula focus on a range of skill levels - from foundation skills and basic service delivery policy to highly specialized skills required to develop an expertise in delivering specific program services. All courses and learning opportunities are based on "best practice" from across Virginia and the nation. Instructor-led and online training products undergo regular evaluation and revision to ensure quality, relevancy, and consideration of the most current research and theory.

VISSTA's mission is to provide "the right training for the right people at the right time."

AREA TRAINING CENTERS

Five Area Training Centers (ATCs) coordinate training activities and identify and address the training needs of social services staff across Virginia. Four out of the five ATCs are managed and operated by local departments of social services. VCU-VISSTA provides oversight for the fifth ATC. The ATC regions are slightly different from the VDSS regions. In order to access each ATC's training schedule, please visit http://www.vcu.edu/vissta/vissta_atc.htm.

The Area Training Centers are located in the following areas:

Hampton Area Training Center	757-727-1880
Richmond Area Training Center	804-662-7470
Fairfax Area Training Center	703-324-7836
Roanoke Area Training Center	540-853-6382
Abingdon Area Training Center	276-623-0134

