



AmeriCorps Local Foods Specialist Summer VISTA Position Description

ABOUT AMERICORPS VISTA

Being an AmeriCorps VISTA member is about making a tangible difference for communities and individuals dealing with some of our Nation's biggest challenges: poverty, inequity, homelessness, and lack of access to education. VISTA members help to build the capacity of organizations that are working to alleviate poverty all across the country. As a VISTA member you will serve in a project identified and managed by the community while earning a modest living allowance that reflects the income level of the community where you're serving. [Read more about member benefits here.](#)

If you're interested in the Table to Table position, please submit your resume and cover letter to Emily Meister at Table to Table at emily@table2table.org

POSITION POSTING

Are you an active person with a passion for DOING? The Local Foods Recovery Specialist is a dynamic role that will support our food recovery operations during the busy summer season. Help us provide fresh, local food options to food-insecure individuals in our community.

This position balances well-developed communication skills with hands-on interaction to implement the gleaning, or harvesting, of excess produce from farms and private donors. The Local Foods Recovery Specialist will complete food rescue routes from area retail donors and initiate outreach activities to backyard gardeners, local farms and producers to expand our collection and distribution of fresh, local foods. Throughout harvest season, the Specialist will help build new partnerships, lead volunteers to harvest local food, and deliver it to partners serving food insecure individuals. The fresh produce gleaned is a vital additional resource for fighting food insecurity across Iowa.

AmeriCorps Local Foods Specialist Summer VISTA

POSITION DESCRIPTION

- Lead gleaning trips to farms: educate about gleaning and farming, oversee and coordinate the harvest, and deliver produce to hunger relief agencies.
- Recruit and communicate with home gardeners for harvest and donation of produce.
- Facilitate deliveries of harvested food and complete pickups/deliveries as needed.
- Identify opportunities for local partnerships.
- Communicate with key staff at donor/recipient sites to ensure smooth pick-up and delivery of food donations.
- Accompany volunteers on food rescue route delivery when needed.
- Recruit community volunteers and engage youth volunteers in harvesting or distribution activities.
- Engage community and youth in learning opportunities about local food insecurity and the benefits of their gleaning service activity.

POSITION OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Expand partnerships with local growers and producers.

- Research area growers and producers and identify potential partnership opportunities.
- Create communication templates that will appeal to local partners.
- Facilitate pick up and deliveries of harvested food and complete pickups/deliveries as needed.

Objective 2: Expand Garden Recovery Program produce collection.

- Promote Garden Recovery Program through newsletters, media, and social media outlets.
- Recruit and communicate with home gardeners for harvest and donation of produce.
- Administer the Fresh Food Connect (FFC) app and promote its use.
- Attend FFC peer meetings.
- Track and analyze Garden Recovery Program data to inform program improvements.

Objective 3: Train and supervise gleaning volunteers and activities.

- Identify gaps in current gleaning volunteer training program.
- Propose and implement improvements to gleaning volunteer training program.
- Attend gleaning events to lead volunteers and ensure proper training protocols are followed.
- Expand on existing produce harvest guide.
- Harvest produce from local farms and deliver to hunger relief partners.

Objective 4: Support Food Rescue Program Daily Operations.

- Communicate with key staff at donor/recipient sites to ensure smooth pick-up and delivery of food donations.
- Unload and organize food received at Table to Table.

- Accompany volunteers on food rescue route delivery when needed.
- Greet and assist volunteers and coordinate daily routes by getting volunteers started and directing their tasks for the day.