



VISTA Community Garden Coordinator Position Description

Effective Dates: 03/18/19-03/17/20

Sponsoring Organization: Association of Arizona Food Banks

Project Name: Association of Arizona Food Banks

Project Number: 17VSWAZ005

Site Name: Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

Focus Area(s): Food Security

Primary: Healthy Futures

Secondary:

Project goals and position description

The overall goal of the VISTA Community Garden Coordinator is to increase knowledge, skills, production and utilization of traditional foods and small scale gardening in a unique partnership between the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and the San Xavier Cooperative Farm, located on the Tohono O’Odham Nation. The VISTA will incorporate these practices in order to improve individual health and create opportunities for community gathering and physical activity at the San Xavier Cooperative Farm. The VISTA will deepen existing partnerships, expand community knowledge and support for program efforts, create culturally appropriate educational opportunities and increase volunteer engagement around food and health.

The project utilizes AmeriCorps*VISTA members in the following capacities:

- ▶ Develop a community garden and learning space, table events on the Nation, place ad spots on the San Xavier radio station, distribute flyers to promote workshops, and use the mobile gardening workshop to reach rural communities on the Tohono O’Odham Nation
- ▶ Work with the San Xavier Education Department to host workshops, the Ajo Center for Sustainability to increase access to healthier foods, and work with Indian Health Services to bring workshops related to food and health to the co-op farm.
- ▶ Develop written curriculum for Wild Food Harvest workshops and traditional food cultivation, preparation, and production workshops. In addition, develop templates for flyers and PSA’s.
- ▶ Visit tribal districts to distribute information for upcoming events with the Mobile Gardening project through Community Food Bank. In addition, update the website and use social media to promote the workshops.
- ▶ Connect with local feeder schools for the nation and provide information related to local food initiatives.
- ▶ Increase the number of volunteers coming to the farm by improving on the existing volunteer management system and developing an orientation for volunteers.

Expected skills and qualifications of AmeriCorps*VISTA members

- ▶ High School Diploma and previous community service
- ▶ Basic understanding of gardening principals
- ▶ Previous work with tribal nations a plus

- ▶ Willingness to take initiative to promote partnerships
- ▶ Entrepreneurial skills (to seek non-traditional partners)
- ▶ Relationship building, teamwork, and leadership skills
- ▶ Patience, willingness to learn, and open mindedness to differing perspectives and ideas
- ▶ Excellent organizational skills
- ▶ Commitment to the mission of the project and its impact on schools and communities

Benefits for VISTA members

- ▶ Educational or stipend award upon successful completion of the program
- ▶ 10 Personal Days and 10 sick days
- ▶ Childcare assistance if eligible
- ▶ Health coverage
- ▶ Living allowance
- ▶ Relocation allowance
- ▶ Student loan forbearance and deferment if eligible
- ▶ Professional Development Training with partner organizations
- ▶ One year of non-competitive eligibility for federal government positions upon completion of service

Requirements to serve as a VISTA member

- ▶ Must be 18 years of age
- ▶ US citizen, national, or legal resident
- ▶ Successfully complete a criminal background check

How to Apply

- ▶ Apply through the [MyAmeriCorps Portal](#)