



Capacity Building VISTA with Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT ENDING HUNGER AND CREATING NUTRITION SECURITY?

The Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Inc. (MAFPG) has a 1-year position available as an AmeriCorps / Hunger Free America VISTA Member. The VISTA member will work in the Madison, WI (Dane County) area as part of a team striving to help our neighbors by providing local food pantries with first-choice, fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant produce. The successful applicant will find the opportunity rewarding in many respects.

This is a unique capacity building opportunity that will engage with multiple community partners (other non-profits, health systems, and health insurance companies) to explore whether MAFPG should begin engaging in activities outside of gleaning and growing produce to increase access to fresh produce outside MAFPGs' 7-month growing season (June-November). An example is provision of pay cards to access fresh produce at grocery stores and/or convenience stores and/or quick service restaurants that include several produce options on their menus.

Program Requirements:

- Create a descriptive inventory of programs in the state of Wisconsin that increase nutrition security through expanded community-level produce access.
- Develop a summary of the Dane County Double Dollars program (a public benefit that provides money for groceries to low-income individuals and families) funding, number of recipients, locations, administration, and capacity building activities, as well as opportunities for program growth.
- Develop a descriptive inventory of community (Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin), health system (UW Health), and payor (Quartz Health Solutions) approaches to increase access to produce.
- Develop a report describing MAFPG opportunities and challenges to diversifying approaches to increasing community-level access to fresh produce beyond growing and gleaning. (*MAFPGs' mission: Striving to help our neighbors by providing local food pantries with first-choice, fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant produce.*)
- Collaborate with one or more community partners to develop a proposal for expanding MAFPG capacity and diversifying approaches to providing access to produce outside current seasonal gleaning and growing strategies.

Required Qualifications

- Minimum age 18
- Excellent organizational skills including the ability to coordinate program details and organize workloads
- Competence working with Microsoft Office programs and the internet
- Ability to work in a context of individual and cultural differences
- Ability to schedule occasional evening and weekend work to fulfill responsibilities of the position
- Ability to be self-directed and self-motivated



- Transportation adequate to fulfill position responsibilities (hybrid position with both onsite and remote work)
- Ability to communicate ideas effectively verbally, in writing, and through educational technology to both youth and adults
- Commitment to a team work environment

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in public health and/or nutrition and dietetics and/or emergency food system and/or gardening and/or urban agriculture
- Volunteer or paid experience working with people from culturally diverse groups
- Experience with relationship building and working in collaborations
- Bi-lingual (Spanish or Hmong)
- Minimum of one year post-secondary education
- Undergraduate or graduate student working towards a college or technical degree in a related field

Direct Supervisor

Brian Arndt
President, Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens
brian@foodpantrygardens.org

Office Location

Home Office (Remote)

Dates of Service

Full-time (35 hours per week for one year beginning upon appointment: 8/12/24-8/11/25)

Benefits

- Bi-weekly living allowance: \$877
- Health Insurance
- Relocation Expenses (\$750 + mileage)
- Leave (personal, medical, parental, emergency)
- If you have children under the age of 13, you may qualify for the AmeriCorps childcare benefit
- Educational award (\$6345) to apply to past, present, or future educational costs or an end-of-term cash stipend award (\$1800)
- Any travel and expenses related to the position will be reimbursed

To Apply

Apply by June 7, 2024. Interviews will be conducted on an ongoing basis. Send cover letter and resume via email to brian@foodpantrygardens.org.