



Hunger Free Community-AmeriCorps VISTA Rockville, Maryland

Overview:

The Alliance to End Hunger is seeking one full-time AmeriCorps VISTA member to work with the Montgomery County Food Council in Montgomery County, Maryland to implement anti-hunger strategies. VISTA members support community leaders in identifying food-resource barriers and developing comprehensive end hunger plans.

The Montgomery County Food Council (MCFC) is an independent non-profit formed and led by individual community members and diverse stakeholders that represent the food system in a public/private partnership to improve the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of Montgomery County through the creation of a robust, local, sustainable food system. MCFC acts through its four working groups; the Food Economy Working Group (connecting farmers, food producers, manufacturers and retailers), the Food Literacy Working Group (improving the nutritional knowledge of residents through educational opportunities), the Environmental Impact Working Group (protecting and improving the local environmental resources of Montgomery County related to agriculture and food) and the Food Recovery and Access Working Group or "FRAWG" (supporting the increased recovery of, equitable access to and advocacy for more healthful food for County residents). MCFC, through FRAWG and its other working groups and along with its community partners, forms a broad-based, multi-sector coalition committed to creating a "Hunger Free Community" in Montgomery County. Hunger Free Community initiatives are formed around the belief that to end hunger at the community level, a broad range of community stakeholders must unite behind a common vision and strategy.

In the Spring of 2017, the County Executive released Montgomery County's Food Security Plan (FSP), which is a comprehensive analysis of the extent of food insecurity in Montgomery County, including a "Findings" section outlining who in the county suffers from food insecurity, the order of magnitude of those populations, and the reasoning for their inability to access sufficient food. The FSP sets out a list of recommendations, broken down annually, which are to be implemented over a five year period to reduce the rate of food insecurity in Montgomery County by 22% by 2020. The FSP's overarching goal is to build a Montgomery County in which all people have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, with dignity

For more information about the FSP, please see -

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/pdf/MoCo_Food-Security-Plan_2017.pdf

Position Description:

The Hunger Free Community-AmeriCorps VISTA will be responsible for:

- Working with community members to develop and enhance collaborations between governmental agencies, community-based organizations and other community stakeholders (faith-based, business, etc.).
- Completing community assessments/mapping to identify community institutions/assets to be included in anti-hunger goals.
- Enhancing public/private partnerships by identifying potential organizations to recruit to anti-hunger work.
- Identifying barriers to food resources and producing a report of findings.
- Helping to implement the community-wide Food Security Plan with the input of partner organizations as well as low-income community members which documents the impact of hunger in the community and outlines recommendations for addressing this hunger through a collective impact approach.
- Recruiting, managing, and training community volunteers to participate in identified activities.
- Creating an advisory board made up of community members living in poverty
- Collecting data and reporting on the coalition's progress.

Time Commitment:

This is a one year, full-time position. The anticipated start date is August 2018.

This is a stipend volunteer position with AmeriCorps-Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

Learn more at <https://www.vistacampus.gov/>.

Position Benefits*:

- The living stipend for the full year is \$20,584, paid bi-weekly
- Segal Education Award (\$5,815 or End-of-Service stipend (\$1,500)
- Health benefits*
- Potential to forbear or defer student loans while in service
- Relocation assistance (if applicable)
- Childcare assistance (if applicable)
- Optional life insurance
- One year non-competitive status for federal government positions
- A network of over 180,000 AmeriCorps VISTA members and alums

*For more information on benefits provided through AmeriCorps VISTA, visit:

<https://www.vistacampus.gov/in-service/benefits-service>

Qualifications:

- Associate's Degree or equivalent experience.
- Strong interest in working on domestic nutrition, hunger and food security issues.
- Demonstrated experience in community engagement preferred.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs.
- AmeriCorps VISTA Requirements:
 - Be 18 years or older (no upper age limit)

- Pass a national service criminal history check
- Hold one of the following citizenship statuses: US citizen, US National, Lawful Permanent Resident Aliens and persons residing in a state that have the following legal residency classifications: refugee, asylum or asylee, temporary protected status, or deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) status.

How to Apply:

Please note that the application deadline is 5pm on May 7th, 2018.

To apply, please completely fill out the online application through MyAmeriCorps:
<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=75029&fromSearch=true>

If you have any additional questions about the VISTA program, contact Brittany Madison,
bmadison@alliancetoendhunger.org

For any questions about the Montgomery County Food Council, please contact Amanda Nesher,
anesher@mocofoodcouncil.org

[About AmeriCorps VISTA:](#)

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members bring their passion and perseverance where the need is greatest: to organizations that help eradicate poverty. The most pressing challenges we face as a nation require the most courageous and creative people to address them. An AmeriCorps VISTA member serves as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to advance local solutions.

[About Alliance to End Hunger:](#)

The Alliance to End Hunger engages diverse institutions to build the public and political will to end hunger at home and abroad. The Alliance to End Hunger's Hunger Free Communities initiative supports broad-based, multi-sector coalitions in the U.S. that are committed to ending hunger in their communities.