



VISTA Assignment Description

Summer Associates

Number of Associates	2-3
Member Term of Service	June 2021 (10-week term)

Site Name	Maine Foodscapes
EIN Number	83-4414589
Service Location (address including 4 digit zip extension)	22 Montgomery Road Windham, ME 04062
Supervisor Name/Title	Ali Mediate, Board President/ Garden Project Coordinator
Supervisor Phone/Email	207-671-6306

Project Name	Goodwill VISTA Partnership
Sponsoring Organization	Goodwill Industries of Northern New England
Project Number	
Focus Area	Healthy Futures
Secondary Focus Area	Environmental Stewardship
Note	

VISTA Assignment Objectives & Member Activities

Host Site Organization Overview	Maine Foodscapes focuses on reducing food insecurity by providing low-income families and individuals with free gardens, gardening and food preparation instruction, and a community experience based on shared desires to increase direct access to healthy, nutritious produce. Maine Foodscapes also participates in the network of southern Maine organizations and programs concerned with producing food to reduce food insecurity and has developed partnerships with several other organizations that enable us to leverage additional resources to combat hunger and poverty throughout Southern Maine. Because organic vegetable gardening embodies the principles of sustainable agriculture, reduces the transportation component of food costs, and improves the micro-ecology in the area where the garden is located, the Free Garden Project also generates positive outcomes for the environment.
Project Goal	The AmeriCorps Summer Associate(s) at Maine Foodscapes will support the Garden Project by expanding its seasonal gardener support. The Garden Project partners with Gardeners experiencing poverty in Cumberland, York, and parts of Androscoggin and Oxford Counties. Summer Associates will recruit volunteers for Gardener mentorship, coordinate succession seeds and seedlings distribution to gardeners, establish the first annual Foodscapes plant sale fundraiser, develop mid-season surveys for program participants and partners, and develop e-News campaigns to send digitally to Gardeners which include seasonal tips and tricks for growing fruits and vegetables organically at home.
Sustainability	The work of the team of Foodscapes Summer Associates will support the sustainability of the Garden Project by developing procedures for expanding support to Low-Income Gardeners during the growing season. The Associate positions are designed to augment the full year member's term that will work on data management and volunteer programming. The projects that the Associates work on will be expanded upon in the rest of the year and the following summer.
Project	Project Summer Associate(s) will support the Foodscapes Garden Project which provides gardens and gardening resources to low-income Mainers throughout Southern Maine.

	Following federal, state, and organizational guidelines that address health and safety within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Associates will assist in the distribution of gardening resources and partnering volunteer Garden Mentors with families that are new to gardening. This project will support the full year member's volunteer recruitment and management activities on their VAD.
Member Activities	1. The Summer Associate will work with the Garden Project Coordinator to recruit and train volunteer Garden Mentors.
	2. The Summer Associate will work with the Garden Project Coordinator to distribute succession seeds and seedlings to 1 st and 2 nd year program participants throughout Cumberland County, Androscoggin County, and York County.
	3. The Summer Associate will use MailChimp to create e-Newsletter campaigns to send to low-income gardeners that include tips and tricks for organic fruit and vegetable gardening at home.
	4. The Summer Associate will plan one Foodscapes Plant Sale Fundraiser.
	5. The Summer Associate will develop a Mid-Season Survey for Garden Project participants.

Expected Outputs and Outcomes

Please list 3-5 outputs and outcomes for the Summer Associate project. This section is for CNCS and Goodwill to measure the success of the Summer Associate position. There are examples listed in the chart below that you are welcome to use but feel free to create your own.

These outputs and outcomes should relate to the Summer Associate Goal/Objectives/Activities outlined in the SA VAD.

Outputs/Outcomes	Target
1. <i>Number of Seasonal Gardening e-News developed for Gardeners.</i>	3-5
2. <i>Number of Low-Income Gardeners who receive succession seedlings and seed packets through the work of the Summer Associate.</i>	50
3. <i>Programs supported through the work of the Summer Associate.</i>	3
4. <i>Number of volunteers recruited.</i>	3+

Training Component	Training	Expected Timeframe
	Goodwill VISTA Partnership Orientation Webinar	First day
	On-Site Orientation Checklist	First week
	In-Service Training by Host Site	Ongoing

AmeriCorps VISTA Benefits

- Stipend of \$513 biweekly throughout the 10 week term
- Choice of \$1,300 education award or cash stipend upon completion of service
 - Education award can be to pay off qualified loans, or for educational expenses at Title IV school
 - Cash stipend of \$345.80
- Forbearance of federally qualified student loans during service term (interest paid by AmeriCorps)
 - Stafford
 - Perkins
 - Some private loans (you must call lender to ask)
- Workers compensation
- Networking/professional development
- Mileage reimbursement to AmeriCorps sponsored training events
- Mileage reimbursement for project/site related travel consistent with staff reimbursement at the site

For more information about VISTA: <http://www.vistacampus.gov/>

AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited in AmeriCorps Programs:

- (a) While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or CNCS, staff and members may not engage in the following activities:
1. Attempting to influence legislation;
 2. Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
 3. Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
 4. Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
 5. Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
 6. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
 7. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
 8. Providing a direct benefit to—
 - i. A business organized for profit;
 - ii. A labor union;
 - iii. A partisan political organization;
 - iv. A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 except that nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
 - v. An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph (g) of this section, unless Corporation assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
 9. Conducting a voter registration drive or using Corporation funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
 10. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
 11. Such other activities as CNCS may prohibit