



**About the Anti-Hunger Corps:**

The Anti-Hunger Corps VISTA program aims to reduce hunger and poverty, and build the capacity of the agencies that address these issues. Members will build the capacity of the organization to assist unemployed and under-employed people obtain job training, job placement, and financial literacy services; improve access to food from government and nonprofit sources for targeted populations in particular and food insecure people in general; enable residents of food deserts to access healthier foods through farmers markets and community gardens; help more low-income children to obtain free school breakfasts and summer meals; enable nonprofit groups fighting hunger and poverty to raise more money and recruit and manage more volunteers, particularly high-impact and skilled volunteers.

**Position Description:**

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in partnership with Hunger Free America is seeking a full-time VISTA member to provide capacity-building support to our member network and initiate a Client-Engagement project to help forge stronger ties between food bank partners and the communities and individuals we serve.

Job Duties – Agency Relations Support, Activity One:

The VISTA volunteer will work closely with The Food Bank’s Agency Resource Coordinator and 177 member agencies to help build relationships through trainings and other capacity building activities. The VISTA volunteer will also help forge ties between agencies so that they can share best operating practices and collaborate on hunger-relief efforts.

- Help plan and coordinate The Food Bank’s annual member agency conference, now virtual
  - Conduct Outreach with member agencies
  - Help plan virtual workshops and conference for member agency staff
- Work closely with Agency Resource coordinator on capacity building

- Offer agencies guidance and support to access capacity building needs and opportunities. Offer support on The Food Bank's capacity grant application process.
- Collaborate with The Food Bank's Agency Relations department and member agencies to develop operating procedures design for long-term sustainability.

Job Duties – Client Engagement, Activity Two:

The VISTA volunteer will build relationships with member agency clients to collect critical data and feedback pertaining to hunger-relief safety net programs, including SNAP, and food access. Through relationships developed at member agencies during the first half of the VISTA assignment, the volunteer will create a client survey and plan client focus groups. These focus groups, designed in collaboration with The Food Bank's Communication & Engagement Officer and member agency staff, will provide critical feedback and personal perspectives on food insecurity in the region.

- The VISTA volunteer will build relationships with clients not only to encourage them to participate in the focus groups, but also to create partnerships in which they feel comfortable telling their own stories of food insecurity through a variety of storytelling forms. This will increase public awareness about hunger and food insecurity.
- The VISTA volunteer will research and provide recommendations for post focus group next steps. They will also provide recommendations on the creation of storytelling processes, including public speaker and storytelling training for clients, participation in video and print stories, and editorial writing.

Volunteer Qualifications & Requirements:

- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent writing and storytelling skills; some experience in journalism or communications preferred
- Survey creation and data collection skills required
- Clear understanding of food-insecurity and related causes, including systematic racism, gender discrimination and injustice, economic and health care inequities and more
- Ability to collaborate with individuals of diverse economic and cultural backgrounds
- Fluent Spanish speaker strongly preferred
- Ability to comfortably plan and execute meetings via digital platforms including Zoom and Microsoft Teams

**Time Commitment:**

This is a one-year, full-time position beginning September 16, 2020. You are expected to be available for the needs of your community and project at all times, including days, nights and weekends. Because AmeriCorps VISTA service requires a full immersion in the project and community, there are restrictions on outside full-time employment, along with some restrictions on political and religious activities. For more information, please review the AmeriCorps VISTA Terms, Conditions and Benefits information available here - <http://bit.ly/1dAs2FM>.

**Housing:**

You are responsible for finding your own housing.

**Program Benefits (provided by Americorps VISTA):**

- \$513.94 bi-weekly Living Allowance
- Segal Education Award (\$6,195) or End-of-Service stipend (\$1,800)
- Health benefits\*
- Potential to forbear or defer student loans while in service
- Relocation assistance (if applicable)
- Childcare assistance (if applicable)
- One-year non-competitive status for federal government positions
- A network of over 180,000 AmeriCorps VISTA members and alums

**How to Apply:**

Please submit a cover letter and your résumé to: Carolyn Sailer, Human Resources Manager at [carolyns@foodbankwma.org](mailto:carolyns@foodbankwma.org) with the subject line VISTA Volunteer Agency Relations-Client Engagement.

[www.foodbankwma.org/who-we-are/careers/](http://www.foodbankwma.org/who-we-are/careers/)