

CT Food Justice Project - **GVI Capacity Building VISTA**

The Connecticut Food Justice VISTA Project is a partnership between non-profits throughout the state, each with one to two VISTA Members building the capacity of that organization. Together we strive for a multigenerational, racially and economically diverse group of leaders with the skills to move communities across Connecticut toward a just food system. With VISTA Member support, host sites commit to empowering their communities to have impact on food-related programs and services, and the food system in Connecticut as a whole. VISTA Members in the project will: 1. Participate in a collaborative forum for sharing best practices and curriculum among 9 project sites and 13 VISTA Members. 2. Build the capacity of each organization to empower under-represented populations 3. Create, expand and enhance the services offered by their host site by fundraising, managing volunteers, convening the community, surveying the community, enhancing awareness of food insecurity and injustice, and much more. University of Connecticut Extension, in partnership with some of the most effective and innovative nonprofit organizations in Connecticut, is coordinating the fifth year of this multi-site project beginning in August 2017.

Member Duties : Green Village Initiative works toward creating a social, economic and environmental change through four programs: Reservoir Community Farm, an urban farm growing food for the community; Youth Leadership Program, a summer program that builds agriculture and professional skills for youth in the community; Community Gardens, working in collaboration with 13 other community gardens; and School Gardens, the 23 school gardens built by Green Village Initiative. Working closely with GVI's Executive Director and staff, the Capacity Building VISTA will create and support communications and outreach strategies with community gardeners and school gardens. The VISTA will work alongside GVI's Youth Leadership and Urban Farm VISTAs, as well as the VISTA member from the Bridgeport Farmers' Market Collaborative, exploring ways to collaborate with other Bridgeport organizations.

Program Benefits : Living Allowance , Education award upon successful completion of service , Stipend , Training , Childcare assistance if eligible , Relocation Allowance , Health Coverage* , Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend .

*For details about AmeriCorps VISTA healthcare benefits, please visit <http://www.vistacampus.gov/healthcare>

Terms :

Permits attendance at school during off hours , Car recommended , Permits working at another job during off hours .

Service Areas :

Hunger , Community and Economic Development , Community Outreach , Environment , Education , Children/Youth , Health , Neighborhood Revitalization ,

Technology .

Skills :

Communications , Public Health , Writing/Editing , Fund raising/Grant Writing , Recruitment , General Skills , Urban Planning , Community Organization , Youth Development , Social Services , Teaching/Tutoring , Environment , Team Work , Computers/Technology , Leadership , Public Speaking , Non-Profit Management , Education , Conflict Resolution .