Dear Colleague,

Hunger Free America is currently seeking host sites for the Anti-Hunger Corps Summer Associate VISTA program. For more information, please contact Vicky Dumbuya at vdumbuya@hungerfreeamerica.org or (646) 736-1942.

**Please note:** Given the current COVID-19 crisis and the uncertainty of how long it will continue, VISTA positions may need to be altered to meet stay-at-home and social distancing orders. Depending on where we are when members begin their service, they might have to serve remotely so have a plan for that.

**Anti-Hunger Corps Program**

The Anti-Hunger Corps (AHC) program is a national AmeriCorps VISTA project sponsored by Hunger Free America (HFA) and supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Previously likened as a “domestic Peace Corps”, the AmeriCorps VISTA program taps the skills, talents, and passion of more than 6,000 Americans annually to support community efforts to overcome poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA Members commit themselves full-time for 365 days or 10 weeks over the Summer with nonprofit organizations to empower communities with new capacity and sustainable solutions for overcoming the causes and conditions of poverty. Public, private, or faith-based nonprofit organizations as well as local or state agencies can host Summer Associates.

Anti-Hunger Corps VISTA program aims to address hunger, poverty, and build the capacity of the agencies that address these issues. Members will 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; more low-income children to obtain free school breakfasts and summer meals; effective nonprofit groups fighting hunger and poverty to raise more money and recruit and manage more volunteers, particularly high-impact and skilled volunteers.

**AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate Program**

The Summer Associate program is a short-term, summer-only complement to our full-year VISTA program. Through this program, we place 80 members nationwide at organizations for 10 weeks from June 7th-August 16th. You can request as many members as you feel you have the capacity to support. Recruitment will be a joint effort between you and HFA. While we will focus on National recruitment, you will recruit locally. While in the program, members will receive a bi-weekly living allowance from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). After successful completion of the program, members will receive an education award, that can be used for future schooling or to pay of past loans, or a cash stipend.

Members will focus primarily on strengthening the capacity of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) by enhancing awareness and educating families. Members will also focus on the following tasks:

* COVID-19 response, which will include helping staff hunger hotlines, help collect data on food availability for hunger hotlines and web listings, help struggling families access food benefits via phone and by computer and/or smart phone.
* Summer Meals outreach (street canvassing)
* Directly serving summer meals
* Researching ways to promote summer meals
* Provide education for and increase access to security resources, including SNAP, WIC, and other local resources
* Recruiting volunteers
* Improve access to nutritious food options by building the capacity and sustainability of farmers markets, community gardens, and/or nutrition education programs.

**Cost Share**

We ask that partners pay a cost share for members, if they are able to, based on the following:

Org. Budget:                Match for 1 summer associate:            Match per subsequent summer associate:

$0 - $250K:                      $56.78                                                     $42.59

$250,001 - $500K:         $289.58                                                   $217.18

$500,001 - $1M:            $579.15                                                   $434.36

$1,000,001 - $5M:         $868.73                                                 $651.54

$5,000,001 and above: $1,158.29                                              $868.48

**How to Apply**

If you are interested in applying for the Summer Associate program, please complete this brief application.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicky Dumbuya, vdumbuya@hungerfreeamerica.org or 646.736.1942.