**Youth Engagement Facilitator **

**AmeriCorps VISTA**

**Effective Dates: 07/05/22 – 07/04/23**

**Sponsoring Organization: Arizona Food Bank Network**

**Site Location: Orchard Community Learning Center: 911 W Baseline Rd, Phoenix; Lassen Elementary School, 909 W. Vineyard Rd. Phoenix, and Spaces of Opportunity, 1200 W. Vineyard Rd. Phoenix 85041**

**Primary Focus Area: Food Security – Healthy Futures**

**Position Description**

If you are passionate and want to make a wellness activist in the context of organic urban farming and youth education, then this position is for you!

The Orchard Community Learning Center (OCLC) works with youth, schools and families to assist in changing the food policies and practices to provide healthy alternatives to the norm. The work is to create and nourish a local food system by supporting Phoenix growers and modeling farming and personal habits needed from local to global. Our programs make it easier to grow good produce and help the community access it.To further this work and increase the impact and sustainability of these programs, the OCLC is recruiting an AmeriCorps VISTA to assist us in the finalizing economically sustainable systems for receiving and distributing locally grown food and engaging youth in multiple phases of the work. The VISTA will encourage youth-led responses to effect change and build capacity within Orchard projects. The VISTA will work with Orchard staff to establish the training and implementation of the following:

1. Collaborate with Orchard leadership and schools to recruit youth (K-16) to work in the Healthy Roots Deli/Grocery and on the urban farms of the Orchard and Spaces of Opportunity. We currently provide food relief to those with wellness or financial need using organically grown local produce. The use of technology and data collected by youth as tools for critical analysis and action based responses to injustices and/or school & community needs.
2. Assist Orchard staff in the last phase of the implementation of an economically sustainable receiving, cooling, and distribution of locally sourced vegetables and fruits.
3. Use of social media and communication tools to broaden the impact and increase capacity in recruiting supporters to the Orchard’s family.

The Orchard Community Learning Center provides K-8 students with the education needed to learn more about food insecurity, including why are people in our neighborhoods hungry and that a vision of a hunger free AZ is entirely possible with more knowledge and education. As an organization, we do not discriminate based upon race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, status as a veteran, status as an individual with a disability, and any other characteristics.

To find out more about serving with AmeriCorps VISTA, please visit the following webpage:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorps-programs/americorps-vista/life-vista-member>

**Responsibilities**

* Collaborate with OCLC leadership working with students and their teachers. Assist in the onboarding of youth participants to participate in the operation of the grocery/deli, school/Spaces gardens, and create lesson plans for with the grade levels to follow for each school day.
* Serve as mentor to youth to identify a specific problem or problems for which they determine an action or actions to address the issue. (i.e. a policy change at the school or district level, a new program, curriculum change, cafeteria food practice, etc.)
* Prepare material (text/photos/student stories) weekly from each component for use in the Orchard’s social media platforms and newsletter.
* Build capacity through fund development and coaching the Orchard on how to carry on with these best practices after VISTA resources are gone. This could include, preparation of materials and communications to our base, and outreach to groups/individuals outside of our current base.

**Key Skills, Knowledge, Abilities, & Qualifications**

* College degree, or relevant experience in place of degree
* Prior experience training and educating youth
* Strong initiative and ability to work with Project staff
* Ability to effectively facilitate educational trainings and workshops for and with youth
* Excellent verbal and written communication skills; bilingual in Spanish a plus
* Ability to collaborate with diverse audiences, understand challenges, problem solve, and develop effective solutions
* Knowledge and understanding, or willingness to learn, of the issues that people of oppressed nationalities experience in Arizona
* Strong organizational skills
* Passion for combating hunger at the level of root causes

**Benefits for VISTA Members**

* Living stipend to cover the basic costs of living (find out more at nationalservice.gov)
* Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend upon successful completion of service
* 10 personal and 10 sick days
* Health coverage at no-cost
* Relocation allowance
* Student loan forbearance and deferment
* Childcare assistance if eligible
* Professional development training
* One year of non-competitive eligibility for federal government positions upon completion of service

**AmeriCorps Eligibility Requirements**

* Must be 18 years of age
* US citizen, national, or legal resident
* Successfully complete a criminal background check
* Valid driver’s license

**How to Apply**

* Please send resumes to: erica@azfoodbanks.org
* Apply through the MyAmeriCorps Portal: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=104211>