



a program of the  
**Windham Regional Community Council, Inc.**  
872 Main Street • Willimantic, CT 06226  
(860) 423-4534 x312 phone • (860) 423-2601 fax  
www.growwindham.org



## **POSITION POSTING: Connecticut Food Justice AmeriCorps VISTA Project**

**GROW Windham, a program of the Windham Regional Community Council, Inc., is seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA service member to build capacity among local community and youth programs to promote access to healthy food in Windham.**

The Windham service member is one of thirteen Food Justice Youth Corps VISTAs working at diverse sites around Connecticut to support programming that focuses on community development and food justice. As a statewide program, the VISTA members will support their host communities, as well as collaborate state-wide to share best practices in youth and community organizing and training among project partners.

About GROW Windham: GROW Windham is a collaboration of community partners dedicated to promoting a healthy food system in the Windham region through support of community food projects and food- and garden-based youth programming. GROW Windham uses local resources to meet local needs by utilizing the skills and networks of residents, businesses, schools, and nonprofit partners. GROW Windham focus areas include: K-12 programming in cafeterias, classrooms, and afterschool programs at all of the Windham Public Schools; the Windham Youth CORE, GROW Windham's year-round HS youth program, in which HS youth build leadership, workforce, and problem-solving skills through projects that promote access to healthy food in the community; and support of community projects such as the Windham Community Food Network and the Willimantic Farmers' Market.

The GROW Windham VISTA will have the opportunity to work closely both with local youth and community leaders as well as alongside fellow food-system advocates and professionals. The VISTA will support GROW Windham to recruit, support and organize community members to sustain four local food programs: the Windham Community Gardens, The Willimantic Farmers' Market, the Windham Youth CORE, and the Windham Community Food Network. In this role, the VISTA will: research and initiate best practices around outreach, attendance, and retention of community participants and volunteers; research and initiate protocols for shared and sustainable leadership in all of the programs; support programs to implement new leadership and organizational practices; and track and evaluate the benefits of these programs.

**WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM LOCAL CANDIDATES FAMILIAR WITH THE WINDHAM COMMUNITY, UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS, AND YOUTH.**

**Application Deadline:** July 1, 2017.

### **Skills and Knowledge:**

- Self-starter
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision
- Creative, flexible, organized, and patient
- Effective problem-solver
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office, Google Drive Applications, and social media
- Bilingual (Spanish and English) (preferred)

***GROW Windham/WRCC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.***



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**Job Requirements:** Community organizing and networking, public speaking, curriculum development, youth development, communications/outreach (including social media), leadership, project planning and development, collaboration-building, and administrative support.

**Special Requirements:** Must be 18 or older (no maximum age), and eligible to work in the U.S. VISTAs will undergo background checks. A conviction is not necessarily a bar to service.

**Education Level:** High School Diploma or GED

**Hours:** Minimum of 35 per week — mostly daytime with occasional nights and weekends. VISTA Members may secure additional paid employment outside of VISTA work hours, with supervisor approval.

**Compensation and benefits:**

VISTA members will receive benefits such as:

- Modest, bi-weekly living allowance (~\$452 before taxes) to help cover basic necessities
- Either a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of ~\$5,775 to pay for college or to pay off student loans, or an end-of-service cash stipend of ~\$1,500
- Healthcare benefits while in service (different than health insurance)
- Potential childcare assistance while in service
- Student loan forbearance or deferment while in service
- Access to and support from the network of VISTA & VISTA alumni (170,000 strong)
- Professional development workshops
- One year of noncompetitive status for a federal government job

**TO APPLY:**

1. Send cover letter and resume by email to GROW Windham Director Sally Milius: [sally.milius@growwindham.org](mailto:sally.milius@growwindham.org)
2. Complete this online application: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd4-zm0a1vEYsjfFQyPliI85yTG7A82XboTgE85x83rzjCcg/viewform>

**About AmeriCorps VISTA**

AmeriCorps VISTA is a federal service program. The mission of AmeriCorps VISTA is to build capacity in non-profit organizations and communities to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Members leverage human, financial, and material resources to increase the ability of low-income communities across the country to address their own problems. Recent graduates gain the kind of real-world experience they can't find in a typical entry-level job. Experienced adults apply their skills and knowledge to serious social problems and discover previously untapped strengths. VISTA members build a network, relationships and work experience that can benefit them professionally and personally long after their service commitment is completed.

To learn more, check out the AmeriCorps Vista site: [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) and also Frequently Asked Questions at: [http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista\\_faqs.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista_faqs.asp)

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