



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:

GROW Windham Summer Meals VISTA Associate

GROW Windham, a program of the Windham Regional Community Council, Inc., is seeking two AmeriCorps Summer VISTA Associates to work with GROW Windham, the Windham Public Schools, and other community agencies to promote the federal summer meals program, which provides free breakfast and lunch to all children in the district.

Summer is a critical time for children. The federal summer meals program, called the Summer Food Services Program (SFSP), is an important source of nutritious food for children and youth during the summer, when they are at a higher risk of both obesity and hunger. Offering free, nutritious meals also provides an incentive for children to participate in summer enrichment programs, which means that they are not only well-fed, but in a safe environment engaged in academic and recreational activities.

During the summer of 2017, the CT Food Justice VISTA Project will recruit and place 15 VISTA Summer Associates to serve at sites serving federally-funded summer meals to school-aged children in locations throughout Connecticut. The two GROW Windham VISTAs will be part of this cohort of 15 Associates serving in sites around the state and will have the opportunity to work closely both with local youth and community leaders as well as alongside fellow food-system advocates and professionals.

Job Responsibilities: The VISTAs will support GROW Windham and the Windham Public Schools in two capacities: creating and implementing enrichment activities at summer meals distribution sites, and promoting summer meals throughout the community through “Fresh Food” outreach activities at diverse events and locations (the Willimantic Farmers’ Market, partner food assistance agencies, affordable housing complexes, faith communities, etc...). In both roles, the VISTAs will research and develop effective enrichment and outreach activities, assist with volunteer training and management, and survey and evaluate the effectiveness of their programming.

Dates of Service: June 8, 2017 – August 2, 2017

Application Deadline: May 1, 2017.

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

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
- Experience working with children and/or in community settings
- 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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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 ~\$1,222 to pay for college or to pay off student loans, or an end-of-service cash stipend of approximately \$205.00.
- 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. complete this online application: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd4-zm0a1vEYsjfFQyPlii85yTG7A82XboTgE85x83rzjCcg/viewform>
2. Send a resume and cover letter to Sally Milius at info@growwindham.org

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.

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 and also Frequently Asked Questions at: http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista_faq.asp

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