

AgCorps AmeriCorps Member Position Description

AgCorps Mission:



To serve Montana communities by providing Ag literacy and environmental stewardship education to create resilient, healthy, and engaged communities under the Big Sky.



Location	Helena Food Share, 1280 Boulder Ave. Helena, MT 59601
Supervisor Information	Jonathan Hockett, Nutrition Program Coordinator, Helena Food Share
Term of Service	Term of Service will be from January to November. Members are expected to serve 40 hours/week. Typical working times are Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM.

About AmeriCorps:

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps continuously tackles the nation's most pressing challenges by getting things done for America.

Purpose:

AgCorps is a state AmeriCorps program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture. AgCorps aims to improve the capacity of partner organizations to meet their mission, grow collaborations, provide effective programming, and create resilient, healthy, safe, and engaged communities in Montana. This program is also designed to serve rural and underfunded school districts in Montana that require more accessibility to Ag literacy materials.

Location:

Helena Food Share is a community food resource center created to help provide emergency food to our neighbors who face hunger. Our mission is to serve our neighbors in need by providing food in a respectful and dignified way and, by working with others, eliminate hunger in the greater Helena area.

With a population of a little over 35,000, Helena is a beautiful capital city with a small-town feel. Montana has something to offer everyone, whether you are into biking, boating, skiing or just exploring the outdoors. There are countless activities to enjoy right outside your door including the state's oldest farmer's market, tours of the famous mansion district and multiple festivals throughout the year. Helena is surrounded by several mountain ranges including the Big Belts, Elkhorns the Boulders, and numerous rivers and streams including the Blue Ribbon section of the Missouri River.

Service Position Summary:

Helena Food Share, we believe that nutritious food is a building block for healthy communities. We see ourselves as a link between our customer base and the local food system, making high quality, locally produced foods accessible and useful to the people who need it most. Our goal with this position is to highlight Montana Agriculture from a farm to foodbank framework. We currently have an on-site garden used primarily for educational opportunities and small-scale production, as well as a pilot project farm located several miles away in the North Valley area of Helena. These two sites are ideal for providing fresh, healthy food that can be delivered to our Market and paired with educational materials that make utilizing it more accessible for our customers. We have several tools, including the Charlie Cart, teaching kitchen, and a commercial kitchen that can be used to provide classes and demonstrations for our customers and other interested community members.

Increasing access to healthy, nutritious foods now will help reduce the chance of chronic disease later in life. This service member will work with additional community partners to develop education and outreach materials, expand ag-education services, and partner with other organizations in the community. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities, per diem, and hotel fees will be provided as funding permits.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Aid in the planning, planting, maintenance and harvesting of all of Helena Food Share's garden spaces
- Support the Nutrition Program Coordinator in implementing agriculture and nutrition-based educational programming
- Assist with summer Saturday Farmers' Market outreach booths once a month
- Continue to grow community partnerships around local food production
- Support with special events throughout the year
- Attendance to mandatory trainings (Orientation, Symposium, mid-service training and end of service training)
- Participation in evaluation and reporting (monthly reporting, bi-weekly timesheet submission and monthly check-in calls)

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Ability to drive and Valid Driver's License
- Basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Email)
- Direct education experience is a plus
- Understanding or willingness to learn about agriculture in Montana
- Ability to stand, sit on the ground, lead classroom activities, kneel, lift heavy objects (occasionally up to 50 pounds), use gardening tools and walk on uneven ground.
- Adhere to program policies and procedures
- Demonstrate the ability to balance service activities
- Demonstrate professional behavior and use of appropriate language
- Demonstrate the ability to be flexible and serve cooperatively
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and resolve conflicts

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive a living allowance to cover basic expenses while serving
- Upon successful completion of service, members receive an education award based on service length
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A monthly housing stipend if eligible (must be paying rent or mortgage)
- Other benefits include being part of an incredible community, being surrounded by professionals in multiple fields, and job shadowing opportunities
- AmeriCorps alumni benefits include access to nationwide alumni network, many career resources, access to AmeriCorps alumni emails and updates

AmeriCorps Service minimum Requirements:

- Must be 18+ at the beginning of service
- High school graduate, GED recipient, working towards obtaining a high school diploma/ GED
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria

For more information, please Contact:

- Amanda Coyle: AgCorps Program Coordinator
- (406) 444-7819
- Amanda.Coyle@mt.gov

To Apply

Visit <https://my.americorps.gov>

* All positions are contingent upon a successful background check and continued CNCS grant funding

* Reasonable accommodations can be made for interviews and if selected, service activities

The Montana AgCorps Program, under the Montana Department of Agriculture, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other discrimination not based on merit or qualifications.