

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	1280 Boulder Ave. Helena, MT 59601
Supervisor Information	Kim Dale, Program Operations Director
Term of Service	This is a full-time 1700hr position. Term dates are January- November 2025. 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:

With a population of a little over 33,000, 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 and the Boulders, and numerous rivers and streams including the Blue-Ribbon section of the Missouri River.

Service Position Summary:

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.

We are in the process of moving into a new facility, which will increase our capacity and allow us to be more creative in how we approach food insecurity. The new building will include a commercial kitchen, community room and teaching kitchen, and much larger coolers and freezers to store product. These features will allow us to do more education and Montana based purchasing.

While serving with Helena Food Share, the AgCorps member will focus on addressing food insecurity in the community. Some activities include developing education and outreach materials, expanding ag-education services, and partnering with other organizations in the community. Helena Food Share staff and volunteers will also be starting a new garden on the property and expanding into larger production on donated land in the Helena valley.

This position will be in the field and on the road about 20% of the time. The remaining 80% will be conducted in a typical office environment. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities, per diem, and hotel fees will be provided as funding permits.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Working with the Nutrition Coordinator to create the infrastructure needed to support food production on leased or donated land.
- Developing education materials specific to foods that come to the pantry through federal food programs and our Food is Care program.
- Expanding Helena Food Share's presence in the community and providing more agriculture and nutrition-based education.
- Working with current staff to create a nutrition/agriculture/culinary internship program
- Attending local food/agriculture meetings and helping staff think creatively about HFS's role in the community.
- Gathering Ag resources and educational material to highlight through other programs:
- Producer education and outreach. For example, interviewing local farmers and creating bios that can be posted on our website

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Valid driver's license
- Public speaking and writing skills
- Ability to accurately provide information to a wide range of people
- Basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Canva)
- Inquisitive and eager to learn
- Commitment to eliminating hunger and its root causes
- Ability to work in a team based environment

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive a living allowance to cover basic expenses while serving
- Upon successful completion of service, members receive a \$---education award
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A monthly housing stipend if eligible

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.

- 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 of the United States
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria

For more information, please Contact:

Amanda Coyle: AgCorps Program Coordinator
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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.