

## 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.*



<b>Location</b>	Helena Food Share, 1280 Boulder Ave. Helena, MT 59601
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	Kim Lloyd, Harvest of the Month Coordinator, St. Peter's Health and Jonathan Hockett, Nutrition Program Coordinator, Helena Food Share
<b>Term of Service</b>	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:

St. Peter's Health, based in Helena, is a nonprofit healthcare system providing services to an estimated 97,000 residents from a five-county area. Our mission is to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of the people and communities we serve.

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 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 the Boulders, and numerous rivers and streams including the Blue Ribbon section of the Missouri River.

### **Service Position Summary:**

Education and access to healthy foods are critical to good health. Helena Food Share and St. Peter's Health will host the Helena Nutrition Coordinator as a joint effort to showcase Montana grown foods. This position will utilize Helena Food Share's Charlie Cart (mobile kitchen) to provide classroom culinary and nutrition education with St. Peter's Health Harvest of the Month Coordinator. The Charlie Cart will also be used for Helena Food Share classes and demonstrations in the food resource center.

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.

This position will be direct education 50% of the time, gardening 30% of the time and in the office 20% of the time. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities, per diem, and hotel fees will be provided as funding permits.

### **Essential Functions and responsibilities:**

- Teach monthly Harvest of the Month lessons in early childhood and fourth grade classrooms
- Provide Harvest of the Month programming at community outreach events
- Aid in the planning, planting, and harvesting of garden spaces and summer agriculture and nutrition-based garden education programming
- Assist with summer Saturday Farmers' Market outreach booths once a month
- Continue to grow community partnerships around local food production
- Support education and logistics of our joint effort Food is Care program.
- 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, access to vehicle, and Valid Driver's License
- Public speaking and writing skills
- 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
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A monthly housing stipend if eligible
- 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](mailto: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.