

June 15, 2017

The Winnebago County Health Department is seeking candidates to fill a full-time Farm to School AmeriCorps position. The AmeriCorps member will work with school districts in Winnebago County to expand the purchase of local seasonal foods in school meal programs and provide student education about fresh seasonal foods.

The member will work primarily with elementary and middle school students, teachers, farmers, food service personnel, parents, and a wide range of community partners. The AmeriCorps member will be part of a larger team of AmeriCorps members who implement Farm to School programs at sites around Wisconsin. The member will report directly to the Winnebago County Farm to School Coordinator and will receive training from the Department of Public Instruction Farm to School AmeriCorps program and guidance from school based committees.

Duties:

This position has two focus areas: community outreach and nutrition education. For **community outreach**, the member will serve as the main liaison between the schools and the community. They will coordinate with the food service director and network with farmers to identify the opportunities for purchasing local foods and will create an action plan laying out the steps necessary to procure local food into their programs. They will also be responsible for recruiting and mobilizing volunteers to enhance and increase the capacity of the AmeriCorps Farm to School program. This will include organizing a Farm to School committee within the school or community, recruiting farmers to present in the schools, organizing farm tours, and organizing snack preparation or food tastings. With the assistance of the site supervisors, they will create a data base of volunteers for sustained program efforts.

For the **nutrition education** area, the member will build relationships with teachers and school administrators to enable delivery of nutrition programs that will educate children about the benefits of making healthy eating choices and supporting local food systems. Members will assist with designing and implementing healthy food lessons, on topics such as school gardens, cooking, and nutrition. Members also work with schools to help implement wellness programs and will share information with other members to create a statewide network.

Members will also help develop strategies and build community stakeholders to make the program sustainable; collaborate with other team members on how best to bring healthy foods into schools; collect data and track program performance using measures such as the amount of local food purchased; attend training to support their roles; coordinate and facilitate local advisory committee meetings; and recruit and manage local volunteers. The member will be required to attend a centralized training in August, attend the opening ceremony and participate in monthly conference calls with the Program Manager.

The AmeriCorps Farm to School member will also support initiatives of re:THINK, a healthy living partnership and project of the Winnebago County Health Department. re:THINK provides outreach, education and resources to the community, and helps to develop and promote local and state policies in an effort to increase the health of our residents and positively impact the community environment.

Required qualifications:

- Strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills in a team setting
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Passion for inspiring healthful eating among youth and for promoting local, sustainable agriculture
- Working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet software and ability to efficiently navigate the internet

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to provide one's own transportation for work purposes
- Possession of a valid driver's license
- Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or lawful permanent resident alien
- Education Requirement: High School Graduate/GED

Desired qualifications:

- Experience in education, nutrition, environmental science, or agriculture
- Experience working with youth in an educational setting
- Volunteer or paid experience with socially, economically and/or ethnically diverse populations
- Experience working with food service in schools, restaurants, or other institutions
- Experience working with farmers
- Skillful in establishing and maintaining professional work relationships
- Experience recruiting and managing volunteers

Appointment Type:

This is a full-time one-year appointment position, a 1,700 hour commitment (approx. 33 hours/wk). The position will begin mid-August 2017 and end mid-August 2018. Potential exists for renewing this position for an additional year, subject to funding. Work hours are flexible and will vary based on school start times. Hours will be primarily Monday through Friday but also include occasional evenings and weekends.

Compensation:

AmeriCorps members will receive a modest living allowance of \$492.31 bi-weekly while actively enrolled, for a maximum of \$12,800 for 12 months. Members also receive student loan deferment, and a monetary education award at the end of service. Reimbursement is provided for travel to participating communities and training.

Application Procedure and Deadline:

Please submit a resume, contact information for two professional references, and a letter of interest including a statement explaining why you think farm-to-school is important for Wisconsin schools by July 7, 2017 to Ellie Nelson, enelson@co.winnebago.wi.us For more information, call (920)232-3036.

To Read More About Farm to School or AmeriCorps Initiatives in Wisconsin:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/f2s>

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer seeking a diverse and talented workforce. AmeriCorps, DPI and Winnebago County do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, gender, national origin, color, political affiliation, religion, age or disability. Individuals with disabilities can make reasonable accommodation requests by calling Ellie Nelson at 920-232-3036 by June 7th, 2017.