

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Volunteer Capacity Building at SHFB- Rural Nutrition Programs

Sponsoring Organization: Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin

Project Name: Second Harvest Foodbank Capacity Building

Project Number: 20VSNWI002

Project Period: 08/16/2020 - 11/06/2021

Site Name: Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Healthy Futures

Secondary:

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Overall VISTA Project: This VISTA project will develop long-term solutions to alleviating poverty through building the capacity of volunteers, particularly those from the communities we serve, to lead programs, build partnerships, expand reach, and serve as ambassadors for our anti-poverty work. VISTA members will build and strengthen volunteer-led programs that are essential in food bank and partner operations, food sourcing, rural and neighborhood-level food distribution, client and collective statewide voice, and public-facing ambassadorship. VISTA members will perform assessments, expand partnerships, develop materials, and pilot programs; their service will benefit over 100,000 food insecure community members across Southern Wisconsin.

Objective of the Assignment

Build capacity at mobile pantry sites to provide volunteer leadership and stability. Currently, a Food Bank truck goes to drop off food that is distributed immediately at mostly outdoor sites. These 28 mobile pantries lack consistency and need clearer expectations for volunteerism.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 1: Community Assessment. Investigate community resources and existing Food Bank resources around rural food insecurity interventions to establish baseline information. Conduct site visits, interviews, and surveys of mobile pantry sites, their volunteers, and the recipients of food at these sites. Create a quick assessment tool (checklists and questionnaire that assess what best practices, systems, and policies are or are not in place) that mobile pantries can use to determine their own strengths and challenges.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 2: Expand Community Engagement. In an effort to recruit more volunteers, expand community knowledge of rural food insecurity and current anti-hunger efforts and/or specific programs with focus on ways to participate in solutions (e.g. volunteering).

Objective of the Assignment

Based on assessment results from Objective 1, create and implement plan, materials, and training to build rural pantry capacity. This includes ensuring that pantries' have documented systems and plans for recruiting, training, and managing volunteers.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 1: Material Development. Identify, gather, and distribute best practices for sustainable volunteer programs at mobile pantries. Create templates that each pantry can easily modify for their own use in recruiting, training, and managing volunteers. Develop a baseline of minimum expectations for recruitment, training, managing, and tracking volunteers at these sites.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 2: Volunteer Recruitment. Assist staff and mobile pantry sites with creating volunteer recruitment plans for each site that needs support. Conduct outreach to prospective volunteers.

Objective of the Assignment

Support mobile pantries' ability to track their impact, including developing non-intrusive ways to understand information about the clients they are distributing food to.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 1: Performance Measurement. Support mobile pantries in collecting and tracking data and impact both their volunteer programs and food distributions. Provide tracking and evaluation templates. Develop a baseline standard of data collection required by the Food Bank for each mobile pantry site.