

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Volunteer Capacity Building at SHFB- Rural Nutrition / Partner Agencies

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 of rural partner agencies in the 14 mostly rural counties in the Food Bank's region to garner resources and build support at these mostly volunteer-run sites, aiming to increase their ability to provide food. An aging and technology-averse volunteer core runs most of these locations, and this VISTA member will help them identify and leverage the support, training, and resources they need.

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 pantry sites and their volunteers. Work with partners in the identified areas to understand their work and unique challenges. Create an easy-start and a more in-depth assessment tool that 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, training, and measurement to build rural pantry capacity. This includes ensuring that pantries' have documented systems for recruiting, training, and managing volunteers.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 1: Plan Development. Work with rural pantries to create doable plans to build their capacity. After working closely with a few pantries to develop plans based on their assessments, create a best-practice template that can easily be modified and adopted by other sites.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 2: Material Development. Identify, gather, and distribute best practices for sustainable volunteer programs at rural pantries. Create templates that each pantry can easily modify for their own use in recruiting, training, and managing volunteers.

Objective of the Assignment

Support rural pantries' ability to track their impact, and to then leverage financial and other resources that help their impact grow.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 1: Performance Measurement. Support mobile pantries in collecting and tracking data and impact in volunteer programs and distributions. Provide tracking and evaluation templates.

Member Activity (04/01/2021 - 11/05/2021): Activity 2: Fundraising Capacity Building. Provide training and templates for rural pantries to apply for grants and leverage other community funding.