



**Power of We Consortium AmeriCorps State Program  
Summer Position Description**

<b>Position Title:</b>	School Gardening Educator	<b>Category:</b>	AmeriCorps Service Member
<b>Host Site:</b>	NorthWest Initiative	<b>Site Supervisor:</b>	Aliza Ghaffari
<b>Stipend:</b>	\$3,200	<b>Position Type:</b>	Quarter time, 450 hours
<b>HR Contact:</b>	AmeriCorps Program Manager	<b>Dates of Service:</b>	April 25 – September 2, 2016

**Position Description**

**Organization Information:**

NorthWest Initiative (NWI) was established in 2000 as a nonprofit neighborhood organization working to improve the overall health of the community and quality of life for low to moderate income residents in northwest Lansing. We have a well-established school based garden nutrition education program in five schools (including two hoop-houses); coordinate three community gardens; hold weekly food distributions; offer monthly healthy cooking classes, host the seasonal Westside Summer Celebration/Westside Farmers Market events, and provide a summer lunch program for food insecure families. These program have emerged from NWI's neighborhood forums designed to address emerging issues (i.e. food security and food access) and to utilize resident driven strategies for community improvement.

**Role and Responsibilities:**

Under the direction of the Site Supervisor, the AmeriCorps Service Member will:

- Develop and implement garden crop plans (layout, successions, rotations) and IPM (integrated pest management) strategies for school gardens and hoop-house(s)
- Maintain school gardens and hoop-house(s), (weeding, mulching, composting, planting, harvesting, cover cropping)
- Recruit, orient and supervise volunteers to assist in garden maintenance (large group work days and regular weekly chores)
- Coordinate harvest and distribution of surplus produce not used in summer nutrition ed. programs (this includes weighing produce and recording yield prior to donation or sale at the Youth Farm Stand)
- Facilitate weekly garden "open hours" at Riddle Elementary School and provides garden based nutrition education opportunities and program promotion to neighborhood youth and adults
- Procure material and monetary donations as needed to support growth of school gardens and garden based education efforts
- Assist as needed in the coordination and facilitation of garden based special events
- Work closely with FSP Staff to determine potential areas of growth in garden based nutrition education program and continue developing and implementing garden sustainability plans
- Participate in the PWC AmeriCorps Program-wide data reporting system along with required participant surveys

**Minimum Qualification:**

- Be at least 17 years of age. Minors must have guardian permission. Applicants must have HS diploma, GED or working toward the completion of one.
- U.S. citizen, U.S. national or lawful permanent resident of the U.S.
- Pass the following checks: State of Michigan, DHS Central Registry Clearance, FBI Fingerprinting, and State & National Sex Offender Registry
- Desire and ability to engage with a diverse population, particularly those living in low-income distressed neighborhoods
- Ability to function independently and as a team member
- 1 or more years of experience in urban gardening/farming
- Computer skills, excellent written and oral communication skills
- Access to reliable transportation
- Flexible schedule (some night and weekend hours may be needed)

**Compensation:**

Members will receive a living allowance of \$3,200 distributed bi-weekly from **April 25<sup>th</sup>-September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016** and receive student loan forbearance for qualified loans. Upon successful completion of service an education award in the amount of \$1,527.78 will be issued. Members will serve ~25 hours/week. All interested candidates must submit a cover letter and resume to Power of We Consortium AmeriCorps Program Director, Andrea Villanueva at [avillanueva@ingham.org](mailto:avillanueva@ingham.org) no later than **February 26<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 by 5p.m.**