



**Ingham County Health Department
AmeriCorps State Program Full Time Position Description**



Position Title	Garden Development Specialist	Host site	Ingham County Land Bank – Garden Program
Position Type	Full time, 1700 hour/year	Site Supervisor	John Krohn
Stipend	\$13,992/year	Dates of Service	Oct. 14, 2019-Sept 21, 2020

Position Description:

Organization Information: The Ingham County Land Bank established its Garden Program in 2009 to serve as a liaison between the Land Bank, the City of Lansing, local residents, and potential gardeners in encouraging and supporting community-based agricultural projects on the Land Bank’s vacant lots. The Garden Program not only provides access to land, but also helps to match our gardeners with valuable resources such as soil testing, rototilling, compost, tools, and other items in order to make their garden more successful.

Role and Responsibilities: The Garden Development Specialist will support and expand household gardens and community gardens in Lansing’s most at-risk neighborhoods. The member will utilize the Land Bank’s parcel inventory to connect residents with land on which to develop gardens, maintain ongoing communication with all program participants, and ensure that all resources are sourced, transported, and delivered in a timely fashion. In addition, the member will spend a portion of their time recruiting and retaining volunteers from area organizations. The member should be capable of serving with very little overhead, and should be very independent. Specific duties include:

- Source and coordinate resources gardeners need to be successful
- Provide insight & guide-by-the side education to inexperienced gardeners on agricultural best practices, health and nutrition, and ways to get more healthy produce from the garden to the table.
- Create and maintain strong partnerships with volunteers, community/neighborhood associations, neighbors and gardeners
- Maintain the garden database, ensuring smooth communication and awareness of our gardeners’ needs
- Solicit local businesses to provide resources that will help to further support projects and increase public awareness and community involvement.
- Member will be required to provide their own transportation to a variety of sites in the Lansing area, a reliable vehicle is a must
- Participate in the AmeriCorps Program’s data collection & analysis and required meetings.

Preferred Skills:

- Extrovert who is easily able to go into the larger community and possesses a strong desire to serve residents in low-opportunity neighborhoods
- Gardening knowledge including garden planning, soil preparation, vegetable planting scheduling, planting and weed maintenance is strongly encouraged
- Able to physically withstand the challenges of laborious garden tasks, lift 40 pounds, and work in heat and precipitation
- Comfortable with the safe, responsible use of tools and machinery
- Flexible in nature and well organized/efficient with time and schedule – ability to serve some evenings and weekends.

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.
- Agree to and pass the following checks: State of Michigan background check, DHS Central Registry Clearance, FBI Fingerprinting, and State & National Sex Offender Registry

Compensation:

Members will receive a living allowance of \$13,992 distributed bi-weekly from October 14, 2019-September 21, 2020 and receive student loan forbearance for qualified loans, health care package, childcare assistance upon eligibility, and continual professional development. Upon successful completion of service an education award in the amount of \$6,095 will be issued. Members will serve 36 hours/week. All interested candidates must be available to spend 40 hours in training the week of October 14th, submit a cover letter and resume to ICHD AmeriCorps Program Director, Andrea Villanueva at avillanueva@ingham.org no later than **July 24th by 5pm.**