

ANTI-HUNGER & OPPORTUNITY CORPS



Food Security and Sustainability in Albany's South End

About the Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps:

The national Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps Program (AHOC), an initiative of Hunger Free America since 2010, is one of the largest anti-hunger AmeriCorps VISTA projects in the country. Its main focus is to fight hunger and improve nutrition, primarily by breaking down barriers to accessing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) as well as by expanding economic opportunity and ensuring healthy futures for all Americans, mostly through the SNAP Employment and Training program. Members also serve to increase the capacity of anti-hunger community organizations to help meet the needs of low-income community members, particularly to seniors, working families and non-English speaking populations.

[The Radix Ecological Sustainability Center](#), an environmental education organization with an emphasis on urban food security, and the South End community advocacy organization [AVillage..., Inc.](#), in partnership with Hunger Free America is seeking a full-time VISTA member to advance access to healthy food in Albany's South End neighborhood.

Position Description:

The one-year position will start June 19, 2017. Interested parties should contact Stacy Pettigrew, executive director of the Radix Center, at stacy@radixcenter.org and Tom McPheeters, secretary of AVillage, at tommcp@me.com. We strongly encourage applications be submitted as soon as possible, and no later than April 15.

Both the Radix Center and AVillage, together with our third partner, the Trinity Alliance, are engaged in addressing the many issues around hunger, health and sustainability in the South End of Albany, which is officially labeled as a "food desert." The Radix Center is an urban agriculture entrepreneurial program for high school youth that produces a weekly Farm Share for local families and grows produce for the South End Farmers Market. AVillage operates the Farmers Market during the summer and fall, as well as year-round exercise and nutrition programming. In addition to the 6 gardens we currently manage, we also are helping develop vacant lots into productive garden space and organizing with neighbors to facilitate their use.

The VISTAs will help us build capacity and further the sustainability of these programs.

Responsibilities will include:

- Develop a marketing/educational outreach strategy to attract neighborhood residents to shop at the South End Farmers Market and eat more vegetables; strategize and help implement creative ways to turn the Farmers Market into an attractive event, including partnering with youth theater or musical performances, etc.; increase/improve presence on social media; and assist in improving evaluation metrics to increase program efficacy and project reporting.
- Improve access to nutritious food options by enhancing awareness of the availability of utilization of benefits at farmers' markets, including SNAP, WIC and other benefits, and provide nutrition education information and opportunities for low-income members.

PLEASE SEE REVERSERS SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION