



Ingham County Health Department AmeriCorps State

Spring/Summer Member Position Description

|                           |                               |                             |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Position Title</b>     | Garden Development Specialist | <b>Host Site</b>            | Ingham County Land Bank |
| <b>Position Slot Type</b> | Quarter-time                  | <b>Host Site Supervisor</b> | John Krohn              |
| <b>Member Stipend</b>     | \$3,994/Total Service Period  | <b>Dates of Service</b>     | 3/28/22- 8/24/22        |

**Position Description:**

**Host 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.

**Roles 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

**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
- Ability to serve some evenings and weekends

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- 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, FBI Fingerprinting check, and State & National Sex Offender Registry check.

**Compensation:**

Members will receive a total living allowance of \$3,994 that is distributed bi-weekly (~\$355/period) from March 28, 2022 -August 24, 2022 and receive student loan forbearance for qualified loans. Professional development training given per program. Upon successful completion of service an education award in the amount of \$1,718.25 will be issued. Members will serve 20-25 hours/week of service for a total of 450 hours. ICHD AmeriCorps State is an equal opportunity employer. Reasonable accommodations will be made for interview/service as needed. All interested candidates must be available to spend 24 hours in training the week of March 28<sup>th</sup>, submit a cover letter and resume via email to ICHD AmeriCorps Organizational Leader, Paige Bartkowiak at [pbartkowiak@ingham.org](mailto:pbartkowiak@ingham.org) no later than February 6<sup>th</sup> by 8pm.