

## AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

**Thurston County Food Bank**

**220 Thurston Avenue NE**

**Olympia, WA 98501**

**360-352-8597**

**[www.thurstoncountyfoodbank.org](http://www.thurstoncountyfoodbank.org)**

**Contact Person & Site Supervisor:**

**Michaela Winkley 360-352-8597 Ext. 123**

**[schoolgardens@thurstoncountyfoodbank.org](mailto:schoolgardens@thurstoncountyfoodbank.org)**

**Serves Vulnerable Population: Yes**

**Background Check(s) Required: Yes**

**Driver's License Required: Yes**

**Vehicle Required: Yes**

**Auto Insurance Required: Yes**

**On bus route: Yes**

**Minutes from downtown Olympia: 0-25 Varies by site**

**TITLE:** School Garden Program Specialist

**HOURS OF SERVICE:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., M – F with occasional evening and weekend hours TBD

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** The AmeriCorps Member will work with at-risk youth in Lacey and Olympia, providing individual and small group tutoring, and engaging students in gardening and nutrition activities designed to improve their self-esteem, readiness to learn, behavioral engagement and dietary quality. In collaboration with the program manager, the ACM will recruit volunteers to maintain garden/education programs and develop curriculum for use at these sites. During the summer months and school breaks the ACM will provide support at the food bank and our summer lunch program.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** The Thurston County Food Bank has provided food to clients in the greater Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater area since 1972. We serve 13,000 families annually, in the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. In our effort to improve the overall nutrition of those we serve, and to prevent hunger and malnourishment, we have developed collaborative, school-based nutrition and garden programs in recent years.

### **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED TASKS:**

- Lead garden and nutrition classes for small groups at five schools
- Tutor children individually or in small groups in reading and math
- Develop garden and nutrition curriculum in collaboration with program manager
- Lead students in packing “mini-CSA’s” for low-income students
- Assist in School farm stands
- Host five family engagement evenings in which families create nutritious, economical dinners together
- Recruit and train volunteers to maintain garden and nutrition programs
- Attend monthly Thurston County Food Bank staff meetings and nutrition services team meetings

### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Some college preferred with a focus in education, nutrition, horticulture or related field.
- Ability and interest in working with K-6<sup>th</sup> grade children with diverse backgrounds
- Ability to pass a background check
- Ability to work independently, self starter
- Strong communication and organizational skills

All positions will abide by AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities in the YIS Service Agreement.