



## Hunger Free Community-AmeriCorps VISTA

### LA CASA NORTE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



#### **Overview:**

LA CASA NORTE is seeking full-time AmeriCorps VISTA member to cultivate the growth of a Hunger Free Community coalition by engaging community leaders and food-insecure community members to identify community assets, partners, leaders, and stakeholders for the development and/or implementation of a Hunger Free Community plan to increase community food security.

In 2009, La Casa Norte founded the Northwest Food Partners Network (NFPN) with funding and guidance from the Chicago Community Trust. The network was created to support and align the work of small emergency food providers who work in a close geographical area on Chicago's Northwest Side. It was one of several similar networks organized in different areas of Chicago in the 1990's and 2000's, some of which still exist today.

Over the years, the NFPN has developed into a network of non-profits and community organizations that run food pantries, free hot meal programs, and produce mobile sites in Humboldt Park, Logan Square, West Town, Belmont Cragin, and most recently expanded to include East Garfield Park. The NFPN has also engaged nutrition educators, social entrepreneurs, urban agriculturists, food justice advocates, and other local nonprofits, businesses, farmers' markets and health centers are more loosely involved in the network as associates. Since the network's founding, its lead agency has been La Casa Norte, a non-profit organization headquartered in Humboldt Park that serves youth and families confronting homelessness.

La Casa Norte has managed the operation of the NFPN and ensured its tenure to date.

#### **Position Description:**

The Hunger Free Community-AmeriCorps VISTA will be responsible for:

- Evaluating the Hunger Free Community's capacity to take on the task of community change, and identifying areas that need strengthening or further development.
- Establishing tools and processes by which the goals of the Hunger Free Community can be monitored and evaluated to ensure progress towards the end hunger plan is being made.

- Ensuring the sustainability of the Hunger Free Community's work by recruiting and training volunteers that can be maintained with minimal oversight by program staff.
- Connecting with partner organizations or other established entities in the community to continue services offered in part by the VISTA project.
- Helping to develop and implement a sustainable fundraising plan to increase funds and in-kind support for the continued work of the Hunger Free Community end hunger plan.
- Prepare and distribute materials; including but not limited to: press releases, video clips, and public documentation that demonstrates the value and reach of the Hunger Free Community. Communications include updating social media and the NFPN website
- Ensure the long-term viability of the Hunger Free Community by building upon the strategic capacity of the coalition and advisory board.

**Time Commitment:**

This is a one year, full-time position. The anticipated start date is in March 2019. This is a stipend volunteer position with AmeriCorps-Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). Learn more at <https://www.vistacampus.gov/>.

**Position Benefits\*:**

- Annual living allowance of \$14,097 (paid bi-weekly)
- Segal Education Award (\$6,095) or End-of-Service stipend (\$1,800)
- Health benefits\*
- Potential to forbear or defer student loans while in service
- Relocation assistance (if applicable)
- Childcare assistance (if applicable)
- Optional life insurance
- One year non-competitive status for federal government positions
- A network of over 180,000 AmeriCorps VISTA members and alums

\*For more information on benefits provided through AmeriCorps VISTA, visit: <https://www.vistacampus.gov/in-service/benefits-service>

**Qualifications:**

- Associate's Degree or equivalent experience.
- Strong interest in working on domestic nutrition, hunger and food security issues.
- Demonstrated experience in community engagement preferred.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs.
- Good working knowledge of event planning and digital media
- AmeriCorps VISTA Requirements:
  - Be 18 years or older (no upper age limit)
  - Pass a national service criminal history check
  - Hold one of the following citizenship statuses: US citizen, US National, Lawful Permanent Resident Aliens and persons residing in a state that have the following legal residency classifications: refugee, asylum or asylee, temporary protected status, or deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) status.

**How to Apply:**

To apply, please completely fill out the online application through MyAmeriCorps:  
<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=80508&fromSearch=true>

Email resume and cover letter to Rebecca Sumner Burgos at [rebecca@lacasanorte.org](mailto:rebecca@lacasanorte.org)

For questions specifically about VISTA, please reach out to Layla Arnold,  
[larnold@alliancetoendhunger.org](mailto:larnold@alliancetoendhunger.org)

**About AmeriCorps VISTA:**

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members bring their passion and perseverance where the need is greatest: to organizations that help eradicate poverty. The most pressing challenges we face as a nation require the most courageous and creative people to address them. An AmeriCorps VISTA member serves as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to advance local solutions.