Community Description

Native communities have lived in Payahuunadü, the place of the flowing water, (what is now called the Owens Valley) since time immemorial. Today, the Bishop Paiute Tribe is located at the foot of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, adjacent to the city of Bishop, Ca, and is the 5th largest tribe in California with approximately 2,000 enrolled tribal members.

The City of Bishop has a population of approximately 3,879 people with a total area population estimated to be around 10,000 people. Over 90 percent of the land in Inyo County is owned by government agencies. Although small, Bishop and its surrounding area remains the largest commercial and population hub in the region. Sitting at an elevation of 4,100 feet, the small city is surrounded by beautiful mountains, and is an area that is visited by many.

Organization Description

The service member will primarily work at Bishop Elementary School (BES) which is one of the four schools within the Bishop Unified School District. In recent years, a garden-education program was begun in partnership with Inyo County Superintendent of Schools for first grade students at BES; this partnership has included the building and establishment of raised-bed garden boxes and hosting of garden education lessons.

In 2016, in partnership with the Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program, garden-education programs were expanded to reach 5th grade students. In 2017, cafeteria taste-testing was also offered by FoodCorps which has proven to be a high-impact activity that can positively impact healthy food choices for grades TK-5th grade. It is the hope in the third year of FoodCorps Partnership, in-class garden-education programs can expand to reach even more grade levels.

In addition to working with BES, the service member will continue an already established partnership with the Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program (FSP) which is working to increase access to and awareness of healthy, traditional, environmentally-responsible, community-grown food that sustains an independent and resilient program which acknowledges, preserves, and strengthens existing community food systems and tribal sovereignty. The FoodCorps Service member will work in collaboration with FSP staff to bring students to one of the Tribe’s two garden locations, located near the Tribe's Environmental Management Office, where students can further engage in planting, harvesting, and cooking healthy foods. The service member will also work with FSP staff to provide garden-based education and taste-test support to Bishop Indian Head Start at least one day per week.

Service Activities Description
The FoodCorps Service Member (SM) will increase and enhance current garden-based education initiatives with their primary work taking place at Bishop Elementary School (BES). Currently the district is in the process of adopting The Next Generation (NGSS) action-based science standards which emphasize collaboration, critical thinking, and hands-on learning; NGSS standards will mesh well with FoodCorps Garden Based lessons. Serving at BES will include continuing and increasing current garden-education programming to reach more students, possible expansion of outdoor growing areas, creating and teaching lessons that work with NGSS standards, as well as continued cafeteria taste testing, in-class cooking and taste tests, and work in outdoor growing spaces that includes seeding, planting and harvesting. The Service Member will also contribute to the continuation of current collaborations with the Bishop Paiute Tribe’s Food Sovereignty Program and Bishop Indian Head Start. The FoodCorps service member will encourage healthy eating through simple cooking demonstrations, will be responsible for helping care for and tend garden sites that are used by BES classes and will help promote local, healthy foods. The FSP’s gardens will be available for FoodCorps lessons as will the Conservation Space Area which includes the trail systems that links BES with one of the FSP garden sites. The COSA is another great teaching tool that relates to traditional foods and medicines of the area.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
We would prefer our Food Corps member to be culturally sensitive, to have a strong desire to collaborate with youth and to be excited about increasing local food availability in our community.

Helpful Languages: Paiute, Spanish
Service Members Need Car? Required

Garden School Foundation
Los Angeles

Community Description
Our Service Members would be serving in the second largest school district in the country, with all its richness and diversity. They would be placed at Title I elementary schools in urban, historically underserved and low income neighborhoods with predominantly Latinx and African-American populations. Along with the strong school communities, Service Members would also join a well established community of GSF Garden Educators and advocates within the broader GSF community of supporters and participants. We are an organization of two full- and seven part-employees with diverse backgrounds and experiences, and can thus provide deep content knowledge, expertise, guidance, support, and camaraderie. Service Members would also be exposed to our extended network of Los Angeles based food justice, food policy, sustainability, and school garden organizations and professionals, thereby gaining exposure to colleagues working across the sector.

Organization Description
Like Foodcorps, we recognize that education, poverty, food justice, and health are deeply linked. So our Seed to Table program is designed to harness the full potential of school gardens to creatively meet these complex needs. We serve students from Kinder through 5th grade in a year-round program that is more in-depth than most school garden offerings. Our Standards-aligned curriculum engages a child over the entire six years of elementary school, and includes both gardening and nutritional cooking components, the latter being a recognized strength of Garden School Foundation’s approach. Many of our students begin the program unable to identify basic fresh fruits and vegetables, so our work has taught us that food access alone is not enough; deep, impactful teaching around whole foods and ingredients is needed in order to impact students’ tastes in ways that can improve health outcomes over a lifetime.

Students visit the garden during the school day, alternating between science-based gardening and nutritional cooking classes. The program encourages physical exploration, critical thinking, and teamwork as children learn how to collaboratively grow, harvest, and prepare their own healthy foods. These are all proven, impactful teaching strategies that are generally reserved for the city’s better resourced schools. Students access a range of STEM and literacy content, develop real-world cooking skills, build lasting environmental awareness, and learn how they can impact their own communities. Garden School Foundation programming improves the student-teacher ratio, provides access to much needed safe outdoor green space, and is tailored to meet the needs of each of our seven unique school sites, complementing and reinforcing the regular classroom teachers’ instructional priorities whenever possible. These learning experiences also extend to students’ families and the surrounding community through monthly Community Garden Days and other events.

We recognize the importance of a multifaceted approach to food access, sustainability, and wellness that FoodCorps provides, and having worked with FoodCorps successfully in the past, we know just how impactful the partnership can be. Currently, three of our schools (24th St., Jackson & Grandview) cannot afford our full, year-long programming and are thus on an amended teaching schedule that allows us to maintain our commitment to the schools at a level they can sustain. By placing Foodcorps Service Members at these three sites, we could provide additional teaching days, bringing them up to full-time programming for all grades, as well as provide in-depth cafeteria programming. The additional on-site hours would also allow for greater cultivation of the school community via such events as Community Garden Days, Harvest Festivals, PTA meetings, etc., along with robust cafeteria programming and collaboration on school-wide health and wellness initiatives, embedding the Service Member’s work within the broader school culture.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Spanish fluency would be ideal to help facilitate communication amongst our diverse community, along with a keen interest in working with children and high needs communities. A passion for equity issues and food justice is a plus. Knowledge of plant systems, ecology, gardening; foodways and food systems; and cooking and nutrition is helpful. Successful Service Members also need the capacity to work both as part of a team and sometimes independently. GSF has worked with Service Members and employees with varying backgrounds and knowledge levels, and we have the
experience and capacity to train Service Members on both content and operations so that they can successfully lead their sites.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful

**Julian Pathways/Julian Union School District**

**Julian**

**Community Description**

Julian is a small, historic, rural town about 60 miles east of San Diego. Geographically, the district covers over 600 square miles of scenic mountain and desert locale and serves two isolated reservations (Santa Ysabel and Mesa Grande). Industry is tourist based, and the town is famous for its apples and apple pie. Community members are supportive of Pathways and the schools. They volunteer for school garden and Safe Routes to School activities, and even crochet hats and scarves and purchase jackets for children. Organization Description Julian Pathways is the non-profit student and family resource center for the Julian Union Elementary School District. Pathways' goal is to ensure that each child receives the physical, emotional, and intellectual support he or she needs— in school, at home, and in the community to learn well. Pathways, established as a California Healthy Start in 2000, is located on campus. Pathways serves Julian Elementary (Pre-K-5th) and Julian Junior High (6-8th), serving a combined 325 students, plus the community's 0 to age 5 population. Ethnicities include: Native 12.2%; Latino 25.8%; White 58.2%; African American .5%; Asian .5%; Pacific Islander .5%; two or more races 2.4%. District free and reduced lunch is 64%, and over 40% of students qualify as homeless. Lead Pathways staff includes: Executive Director; Resource Coordinator; Expanded Learning Coordinators; Garden Educators; Safe Routes to School Coordinator; and Drug Free Julian Coordinator. The Executive Director is part of the 4 member District Leadership Team and convenes both the school-community collaborative and the Farm to School team.

**Service Activities Description**

**Elementary School:** We have a wonderful educational garden on the elementary campus that would benefit from the additional support a FoodCorps service member could offer, both working with students and assisting with garden maintenance. (2) Tie in physical activity and nutrition education in the classroom, cafeteria, and playground.

**Elementary and Junior High**

(1) We have had a dream of establishing a school orchard to supply Julian apples, pears, and other fruit for our nutrition program. We have the offer of consultation from the Julian Apples Growers Association (who would like to see a new generation of apple growers), but need a knowledgeable lead person to take on what might be a daunting task. (2) We have a farm to school nutrition program, catered by a local farm to school restaurant. Sadly we have been unable to increase our average daily participation higher than
about 33%, even though we have a high FRL percentage. We are not experts in this, and having someone who could come in to provide activities that would help get students excited about purchasing meals would be an exceptional benefit. (3) We serve a Grab and Go breakfast that is limited—cold cereal/juice/granola bar in too much plastic wrap. Assistance in improving school breakfast would be great. (6) We celebrate national Food Day annually. It's one of our favorite events, much loved by students, staff, and community members. An additional hand in implementing this event would allow us to expand it even further. (4) Support with California Thursday outreach and promotion. (5) Offering menu support and promotion with our Jeremy’s on the Campus lunch and after school supper program

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
(1) Knowledge and skills in garden practices, nutrition programs, and nutrition education
(2) Relationship building with students, parents, school staff
(3) The ability to work independently and collaboratively
(4) Orchard knowledge would be a bonus!

Helpful Languages: Spanish
Service Members Need Car? Required

Lawndale Elementary School District
Los Angeles

Community Description

In the 1900s, Lawndale was founded as an agricultural community, with warm weather most of the year and modest amounts of rainfall in the winter and spring. The city experienced massive growth right after World War II and became a bedroom community and, in 1959, it incorporated, which has allowed the city to operate independently from surrounding cities and provide its citizens with their own county services, such as a fire department, police department, public library and school district. Today, Lawndale represents 2 square miles of small business’ and households with a population of approximately 33,000. Around 83% of Lawndale residents identify as Latinx, African-American, and Asian, with the majority identifying as Latinx. English and Spanish are the most commonly spoken languages. Currently, about 34% of Lawndale households report incomes at or below 200 of the Federal Poverty Level (LA County Dept. of Public Health Profiles: Lawndale, June 2018).

Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD) consists of eight Title 1 schools serving around 5,600 students. 90.7% of our students identify as African-American, Latinx, Native American, Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander. Per the California Department of Education, 83% of LESD students qualified for Free and Reduced Price Meals during the 2018-19 school year due to family incomes at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. Additionally, 18% of households in Lawndale are food insecure (LA County Dept. of Public Health Profiles: Lawndale, June 2018).
Lawndale, June 2018). In addition to struggles with food insecurity, many families are faced with the challenges of managing chronic health conditions such as obesity and diabetes: 25% of adults in Lawndale are obese, and 10% have been diagnosed with diabetes (LA County Dept. of Public Health Profiles: Lawndale, June 2018). Per the 2017-18 California Physical Fitness Report, 45% of our 5th graders needed improvement in their body composition scores and of these, 24.7% needed improvement due to potential health risks.

With the inclusion of nutrition and garden education in our school district, our Wellness Program has worked to benefit the Lawndale community by improving education about and access to healthy food. Pop up farmers markets, school wide events and community wide events focused on health have contributed toward improving eating habits, encouraging people to try new foods, and horticulture fundamentals. LESD is committed to FoodCorps goal, “connecting kids (and parents) to healthy food in school (and home), so they can lead healthier lives and reach their full potential.”

**Site Description**

Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD), consists of 2 middle schools and 6 elementary schools. All 8 sites have built a solid infrastructure of working edible gardens. Our school district’s Wellness Program is addressing issues surrounding access to healthy foods while educating our students about nutrition, agriculture, biodiversity, nature awareness and sustainability. Our students are learning how to be good stewards of the earth and good stewards of their bodies. With the support of our school population and surrounding community, we have installed new gardens and turned underutilized gardens into thriving outdoor classrooms. We have seen the direct impact our Wellness Program has had on our school community and we are proud of our accomplishments, but there is still more work to do.

Both FoodCorps and LESD recognize that many children do not have access to healthy foods and that diet related chronic illnesses disproportionately impact lower income communities and communities of color. By partnering with FoodCorps, we hope that we will be able to build a stronger coalition to create equity by reducing health, academic and economic disparities when it comes to accessing and preferring healthier foods. We know that FoodCorps has many years of experience when it comes to addressing these issues in ways that are fun and engaging for students, as well as sustainable for school communities. We hope to grow our school garden program and improve the culture of health in our district by implementing and ingraining those best practices during our period of active partnership.

Encouraging a healthy culture at school often leads to increased fruit and vegetable consumption at home, inspiring more families to start their own gardens and lessen food insecurity in low-income households.

Garden enhanced nutrition education continues to fight an uphill battle at school districts. Funding, personnel and educational priorities often determine the sustainability of a school garden program. Teachers feel ill equipped to teach in a garden without prior gardening
experience, interest or time. Paid garden educators are rare. Enthusiasm for a school garden begins high but without dedicated personnel, becomes unsustainable, falling fallow from neglect. Fortunately, LESD has managed to avoid these common pitfalls with their school gardens. Driven by a strong Wellness Program and volunteer base from the UCCE Los Angeles County Master Gardener program, we continue to reach our garden enhanced nutrition education goals. Sharing this platform with FoodCorps will help improve our program and make it all the more sustainable, resulting in increasing access to healthy food, teaching more students and parents the many benefits of healthy eating, and working to improve health, academic and economic outcomes.

Service Activities Description

A FoodCorps service member will support our garden enhanced nutrition education programs at two of our elementary schools, Billy Mitchell Elementary and Mark Twain Elementary. They will continue the work established by our previous UCCE Los Angeles County Master Gardeners by providing garden lessons, taste tests and cooking opportunities to our Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Lessons will be drawn from the FoodCorps curriculum and include a combination of Common Core and Next Generation Science standards, incorporating hands-on activities that support nutrition education principles and basic horticulture techniques. The FoodCorps service member will coordinate with each school’s Food Service manager to deliver “garden to cafeteria” crops to the cafeteria salad bar. The FoodCorps service member will help maintain the garden, keep the compost and worm bins operating at optimum levels and oversee garden inventory and operating materials. Participation during student lunchtime will be important to encourage healthy eating, handing out stickers for catching someone eating a fruit or vegetable, plus assisting with recycling lunch trash and food waste. We also would create opportunities for the service member to participate in school wide events to promote healthy eating, as well as work with school wellness committees to help build expectations and policies around healthy food. We might also recruit their assistance in a variety of projects, possibly including: pop up farmers markets, student driven plant sales to raise garden funds and family workdays in the garden.

Oakland Unified School District
Oakland

Community Description

Oakland Unified School District is an urban school district located in the San Francisco Bay Area. The district serves 37,000 students, over 70% of whom qualify for free or reduced price lunch. Oakland itself is a diverse, vibrant, and ever-changing community with a population of approximately 400,000 people. The target elementary schools will be in East and West Oakland, as well as the San Antonio /Fruitvale neighborhood.

Organization Description
Our Service Members will be housed within Oakland Unified School District's Health and Wellness Unit, in partnership with the Nutrition Services Department. The Health and Wellness oversees the implementation of the District Wellness Policy; guides health education and physical education programming (with a large focus on nutrition and garden education); and the District Wellness Champion program (stipended teacher leaders) at 60% of our school site.

Nutrition Services serves over 38,000 meals across 86 schools and 20 child development centers in Oakland every day. We have a long-standing commitment to farm to school programming and local procurement. Nutrition Services operates local school produce markets at 18 sites as well as the Harvest of the Month and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable programs at over 30 sites. Additionally, we partner with schools to implement garden education and to source school garden grown produce for our salad bars.

Service Activities Description

At 20 elementary schools, 10 FoodCorps Service Members will work with a Site Wellness Champion, a Food Service Manager, a Wellness Council and the school team of teachers to 1) teach nutrition and garden lessons; 2) steward and encourage ongoing stewardship of the site garden; 3) lead taste tests and cooking demos in classrooms, garden and cafeteria; 4) promote healthy eating and a healthy environment in school cafeterias.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
● Comfortable leading groups of children in structured, hands-on activities; school/classroom experience a plus
● Able to work independently to organize, plan, and prepare programs
● Possess strong interest in learning and teaching hands-on skills, such as cooking and gardening
● Have personal or professional experience in diverse, urban school districts
● Be punctual, reliable, accountable, and team-oriented
● Some content knowledge of nutrition education, garden education and health education best practices

Helpful Languages: Spanish—for at least 2 service members

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Oxnard School District
Oxnard

Community Description
Oxnard School District is located in Western Ventura County in a largely agricultural area, near the coast of the Pacific Ocean. The student population is 92% Hispanic or Latino, with an increasing percentage of the community represented by the Mixteca culture. Oxnard School District believes in a holistic approach to education through community engagement and support. We continue to promote "Enhancements" to our meal program through: Harvest of the Month, California Thursday, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program, and FoodCorps! This current year has been focused on the reduction of Food Waste, Nutrition Education, and implementation of trash separation systems.

**Organization Description**

Oxnard Elementary School District has 20 schools, covering pre-school, elementary and middle school, with 17,500 enrolled students. All 20 schools exceed 50% free and reduced price meal eligibility with a district-wide average of 87% students qualifying for Free or Reduced meals. Oxnard Elementary School District mission is to ?Ensure a culturally diverse education for each student in a safe, healthy and supportive environment that prepares students for college and career opportunities.

**Service Activities Description**

The Service Member will focus on hands-on lessons with elementary-age students, and will continue the implementation of the educational program to minimize Food Waste and enhancement of Nutrition education, implementation of a Trash Separation System, implementation of Food Share Tables, and coordinating with nonprofit agencies to donate leftover foods. These sites will partner with Child Nutrition Services, Custodial Services, and Educational Services to implement the full range of programs listed above. The service member will act as the conduit to begin the process of implementation between all engaged departments. He/She will engage in training, monitoring and educating teachers, staff, and students in the new systems to reduce food waste from the Child Nutrition services.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

Ag or garden skills, interest in Nutrition Education, interest in food waste systems, interest in composting systems, teaching and training capacity, interest in community outreach, and collaborating with students, teachers, foodservice staff. Spanish Speaking advantageous but not a requirement.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish  
**Service Members Need Car?** Required

---

**Rio School District**  
**Oxnard**

**Community Description**

Since its beginnings as a one-room schoolhouse in 1885, the Rio School District has been the center of the community for all the families it has served. Today, the thriving District continues
its tradition of caring for each student. Rio School District serves the unincorporated community of El Rio, RiverPark and portions of the City of Oxnard. The District strives to provide world-class education to its more than 5,430 students through five elementary schools, two k-8 school academy, and two middle schools.

Families appreciate Rios small school community with student enrollments between 500-700 students in elementary school and 700 students at the middle school. The District is in the process of implementing a long term master plan which includes updated kitchens, culinary classroom, and bakery.

Site Description

Our mission is to prepare Rio students for learning, by providing nutritious and delicious meals every day. Our goal is to encourage students to develop, learn, and establish life-long habits for making healthy food choices.

At Rio School District, we put special emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables. Being located in beautiful Ventura County, we are able to benefit from the wonderful abundance of locally grown produce. Each of our schools features Harvest of the Month and offers students a fresh salad bar highlighting a variety of fruits and vegetables. Our menus showcase whole grains, low-fat dairy products, and are free of trans fats.

Although Rio is a district that understands the importance of giving kids healthy scratch cooked meals everyday, we are missing the education that connects kids to healthy food in school. FoodCorps mission to focus on hands on lesson, healthy school meals, and promoting a school culture of health & wellness is the missing link to help our students establish life-long healthy habits.

Service Activities Description

The Rio Lindo Rockets have launched a successful academic program since opening in the 1960s, however with the schools age our department faces many challenges such as old kitchen equipment, poor campus moral as its related to health, and low income families where there is high need for food. Rio Lindo is currently operating the Community Eligibility Program, also known as CEP. In order to qualify for the CEP eligibility program, a school must have a high percentage of families receiving a benefit such as CalFresh, Calworks, Tanf or be identified as Homeless, Migrant or Foster. Rio Lindo would be considered a low-income school because they have a free and reduced population of 73%. A need for hands on learning and improved schoolwide culture of health is critical. Despite the schools best effort to promote health and garden education, the school site needs the hands on support to help bring this campus full circle.

Rio Real is a K-8 Dual Immersion School. The school has mastered implementing a multilingual and multicultural curriculum. The schools goal is to develop readers and writers in two or more languages. Rio Real currently operates the Provision 2 eligibility program which offers free breakfast, lunch and supper to all students. Rio Real qualified for the program because of their high free and
reduced population of 78%. With Rio Real being in the heart of the old El Rio community many families rely on the schools meal program to feed their kids. We have a high migrant farm worker population and Mixteco community in this area. Like Rio Lindo, Rio Real would greatly benefit from the hands on learning instruction for garden and nutrition education because many students do not get this education at home. Despite the scratch cooked meal program, we find many kids in this community gravitate towards junk food as a reward. FoodCorps could really help steer the community in a better direction through health promotion.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

San Diego Unified School District
San Diego

Community Description

As our school district serves over 250 school sites all over SD County, the communities we serve food to are all uniquely different in many ways. Two areas that our SM would be serving is in Sherman Heights and City Heights, two neighborhoods southeast of downtown San Diego. Kimbrough (Sherman Heights) has 400 students, where 100% are able to receive a free breakfast and lunch. They have a wonderful large school garden area that has been built up over the past few years, however over recent years lost parent involvement. This past year, they have had Grace Merrett, FoodCorps Service Member, who has been building the garden back up and maintaining the garden and incorporating it into the school community/education. One of the roles a SM would play in is to continue to make these connections between the school and garden education and community.

In addition, a plate waste study was conducted this year showing more than 80 lbs of food wasted during a lunch period. Meaning, while 87% of students participate in our lunch program a lot of the food is getting thrown away, specifically salad bar produce. This is a common trend and obstacle we face at many other school sites. The SM at this site would work together with Food Services and the school itself to create a more sustainable school food culture and appreciation that can be used as a model throughout the district.

Cherokee Point (City Heights) has 400 students, where 100% are able to receive a free breakfast and lunch. This school has had families who showed great interest in the garden and compost program in the past but could excel greatly with the support of a FoodCorps SM.

Both schools are majority Hispanic with a strong parent forces who are eager about healthy movements for their school community. In addition, both schools have well sized gardens that hold a lot of potential, having great support from Master Gardeners, local composters, and city grants.
The second area that another SM would be serving is in Linda Vista, a neighborhood located central of our school district. The schools are Linda Vista and Caron elementary. Linda Vista has about 350 students and Carson Elementary has about 400 students. Both are schools that receive 100% free breakfast and lunches. Both schools have gardens built by a local organization, Good Neighbor Gardens, who established a well rounded garden education program that aligned with the STEAM curriculum. GNG moved out of these schools and left behind beautiful gardens that the whole community and school site feel attached to.

Site Description

San Diego Unified School District is proud to be a leader in Farm to School efforts in the nation. Our Farm to School programming started back in 2010 with three goals in mind. The first is local procurement, meaning we make our best efforts to serve food from locally sourced farms and companies. We participate in Harvest of the Month, providing fresh, seasonal, and local produce to our students on our salad bars every Wednesday. We also believe in "California Food for California Kids", a campaign through the Center of Ecoliteracy. This started out as "California Thursday" that of which one of our school meals is sourced entirely from CA. The second aspect of Farm to School is our belief in the impact of nutrition education. As we offer these delicious and nutritious choices for our students throughout our district, we know of the effects that health and nutrition education can make to a student's food choices. We focus on student education, as well as faculty and parent education as well. Lastly, we believe in supporting our school gardens. We offer our school gardens a variety of programs that they can get involved with. These include our Garden to Cafe program, which allows school garden grown produce to be served in the cafeteria salad bar. Another is our Youth Garden Stand program, which allows students to sell their school grown produce back to their community.

With all these efforts and more, we find that our goals completely align with that of FoodCorps. With the support of FoodCorps and a FoodCorps service member we can enhance the potential abilities of school gardens to get more student grown produce served at lunch time and create education programs that can be modeled throughout our full school district.

Service Activities

This past year, we were grateful to have 2 wonderful FoodCorps service members, Grace Merrett and Julie Prince. They were place at school sites in their first year of having a FoodCorps SM. Some things that Grace and Julie accomplished at their school sites include collaborating with school communities and leaders, curriculum development, starting after school clubs, planning family cooking nights, and providing school grown produce or flowers to teachers - all generating a Schoolwide Culture of Health. The SM for the following school year would have the opportunities to continue on these programs or create their own to help strengthen the overall culture of health at each site.

In addition, being that SM will be partnered with Food Services, they will have the chance to participate in taste testings either for Harvest of the Month, manager's specials, or new cafeteria dishes. Grace started cafeteria conversations at her sites, while Julie was allowing students to help with taste testings. Each SM had space for a creative bulletin board where they featured most
colorful lunch trays or flower bouquet arrangements from the garden. The SM for the following school year would have open range to expand these activities or create new ones in efforts to inspire Healthy School Meals at their school sites.

Lastly, principals and many teachers at all school sites have been able to collaborate with Grace and Julie in assuring they have the ability to do hands on learning with their students. For example at Kimbrough, Grace was granted access to a classroom to hold her cooking lessons in. While Julie at both schools, Linda Vista and Carson, was embedded with the STEAM program so she had access to materials to help shape her lessons.

Each SM will also receive a cooking class kit and access to a seed library from Food Services to be able to teach hands on cooking and planting lessons.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?** Required

### San Francisco Unified School District

### San Francisco

#### Community Description

African American student achievement has been consistently lower than the district average or where the gap between students of other races and black students is widest. The schools we select to participate will be from the southeastern San Francisco Bay View and Visitacion Valley and Mission neighborhoods, with a focus on PITCH schools.

#### Site Description

School Health Programs supports all SFUSD schools to be welcoming and inclusive environments so students are safe, healthy and ready to learn. Driven by our district values - including fearlessness, unity, and social justice - we remain strong in our resolve that ALL students, and the multiple identities, communities, and histories they embody, are essential to a strong and flourishing society. Our office supports health education and our district’s Wellness Policy with board-mandated health lessons, K-12, and Student Nutrition Services provides high-quality meals to our students.

We view comprehensive health education as a right of passage for ALL students. We hope FoodCorps will be an extension of our Wellness Policy and Health Education by providing hands-on lessons to students in the garden and classroom and helping schools build a school environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish, Cantonese

**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful
Community Description

Phelan is a small rural town found in the High Desert at the northern base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Our school district is the number one employer in town. Phelan is home to Phelan Elementary, one of our district's six elementary schools; Pinon Mesa, one of our District's two Middle Schools, and our only high school (Serrano) is also located in Phelan. Our schools' functions as community events. Community events such as Phelan Family Fun Days include the schools and celebrate being a tight community. Although we are a small town, there are many opportunities in the area. Wrightwood is a mountain community 10 miles away that provides many outdoor activities, including Mountain High Ski Resort and National Forest access. Thirteen miles to the east is Interstate 15. The tri-cities of Hesperia, Victorville, and Apple Valley are accessible and have all urban offerings.

Phelan Elementary has an amazing Parent Teacher Student Team (PTST) that supports all things positive here at Phelan! For many of our students, school is the central safe predictable part of their day. We also have an After School Program, from 3:00-6:00 PM, that provides a nurturing fun extended day for approximately 100 students. Many of our families enjoy a rural life-style with horses, chickens, and wide-open space living. The high school hosts a very active FFA program.

Site Description

We are in the process of becoming a STEAM school. We have a STEAM Lab that is located next to our Garden w/Greenhouse. The Garden space has not been exploited in years, and we would love to continue our first year of partnership with FoodCorps and building what we have into something the entire community can embrace. Our scholars have been neglected for far too long. Other elementary schools in the district tend to outperform us academically, have modern buildings, and are more "appealing" from the outside looking in. We want our scholars and their families to be proud of our school and what it has to offer our kids. Additionally, our poverty stricken families are not educated in healthy eating and/or lifestyles. We want to provide our scholars with the most probable (best opportunities) opportunity to grow up healthy. We feel that partnering with FoodCorps would heighten the probability of our scholars living a healthy lifestyle. Many of our students and families face food insecurity and most of our students have yet to be invited to make healthy fresh food choices. Processed foods for meals and snacks abound! We'd like to continue getting our kids excited about "Eating the rainbow" and teaching them about the bounty of healthy choices a garden can supply them and their family with!

Service Activities Description

Phelan Elementary will be the serving site. We hope to continue using our existing garden to provide hands-on NGSS lessons. Students will use discourse and note-booking to record their individual/group learnings at all stages. We will coordinate extended learning with our cafeteria
staff to work toward healthier eating habits, trying new organic food (taste testing), and continued focus on physical activity (Running Club) promoting an inclusive Culture of Health. Our new FoodCorps service member will be such a welcome addition to our Phelan Family. They will be invited and welcomed into our campus community and encouraged to be an active participant in planning with the teachers and staff. We will provide for their office needs as well as people-power in order to get the garden ready for lessons. Having such a valuable member added to our team will be fantastic for the students (they love this!), and an incredible resource for our teachers. Our first year has been such a success so far. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, it's very sad to think our kids may not get to see the garden in all its Spring glory. We're hoping Fall will welcome us all back to school and our FoodCorps lessons along with the garden will once again be a welcome central spot for HEALTH!

Helpful Languages: Spanish
Service Members Need Car? Required

Upland Unified School District
Upland

Community Description

The specific schools within UUSD that will host a FoodCorps member are Baldy View Elementary and Upland Elementary. Baldy View and Upland Elementary are two of three schools within UUSD that are considered community eligibility provision schools, meaning that 100% of the students receive free breakfast, lunch and supper due to the needs of the community. Both schools also serve higher percentages of historically disadvantaged groups. At Baldy View, the Hispanic population is 71.5%, the White population is 7%, the Asian population is 2% and the Black population is 11%. At Upland Elementary, the Hispanic population is 76%, the White population is 12%, the Asian population is 2.5% and the Black population is 6%. The campus communities at both of these schools have been extremely supportive of the FoodCorps program. Both service members were given a classroom of their own to utilize for the classes and at both schools, a majority, if not all, teachers signed up for their students to participate in FoodCorps bi- weekly. Kathleen Harrigan, service member at Baldy View Elementary helped to run two garden clubs a week with a long- time staff member. In fact, our new service member for next year will take over the garden club, as that staff member is retiring. Of special note, Baldy view is one of the three full central kitchens within UUSD where the welcoming staff has been open to developing and testing out new healthy recipes under direction of the kitchen lead, who is a certified chef. Kathleen and the taste tests that she runs have been integral in these new recipes that the cafeteria will now attempt to make at a larger scale for cafeteria serving. A simple taste test of cucumbers and tajin convinced the Baldy View kitchen to make tajin available to students on their salad bar. Kathleen led the charge to get more garden grown produce into the cafeteria, such as blood oranges, and also the effort to get produce from the salad bar into the compost bin in the garden. Baldy View went through a
principal change half way through the year and the new principal was amazed at what FoodCorps was doing for students at the school.

Upland Elementary is also home to committed and enthusiastic teachers and administrative personnel. Staff at Upland Elementary have absolutely loved taking their students to Rachel Tice's FoodCorps classroom. Rachel decorated the classroom so intricately and creatively that the students find new things to look at every day. Rachel was very helpful in starting a new garden at Upland El so that her students had the space to learn outside. Rachel's goal for the end of the year was to start a garden club and already got a lot of interest from students and parents, if schools will open again this year, she will have a great turnout for the garden club! At Upland El, there is also a large kitchen facility that is outfitted to create and test new recipes. Upland El students were already getting information about local produce through Harvest of the Month but Rachel made sure to increase and enhance the students' education by starting Cafeteria captains, taste bud ticket drawings and more. The students at Baldy View Elementary and Upland Elementary are at the perfect age to start learning about nutrition and building a lifelong skill set to ensure that they are always taking care of their mental and physical health. It's important to note what Rachel and Kathleen have started in Upland Unified when describing the community because the Upland Unified community is proud of and so thankful for FoodCorps.

Site Description

In the Upland Unified Farm to School Program, we embody Upland USD's mission statement, 'Every Single Student, Every Single Day' by striving to ensure that every student is given access to a hands-on learning opportunity based on organic gardening, positive nutrition habits and community building. In the Farm to School Program we work with individual school administration, teachers and students to plan a school garden that will serve both the school's and program's goals, making it more likely to sustain a garden program on campus. Through this practice of including school admin in the garden planning, we have been able to design beautiful and unique gardens such as the Wellness garden at Cabrillo Elementary, filled with Buddy Benches, class seating and a fountain, and the School Community garden at Citrus Elementary that focuses on large spaces for classes to learn and small places for students to grow.

The school gardens within the District have provided students with the opportunity to get outside and learn about the food system while also learning about nutrition and how to make good food choices. As a San Bernardino County Community Food Producer, the produce that we grow in the school gardens can be incorporated into cafeteria recipes. The unique opportunity for students to grow and harvest lettuce in the garden and then later eat that same lettuce at lunch is unmatched. This has also led to students trying new and unique produce and recipes such as eggplant dip, orange vinaigrette and jicama salad, basil pesto, and corn and black bean salsa, all including items from our school gardens. FoodCorps' has enhanced our mission for the past year and we are very excited to see where our journey with FoodCorps can grow. Here are a just a few out of many that our FoodCorps service members and the FoodCorps programming has worked hand in hand with our mission
statement. One of the largest goals of our Farm to School Program is that students are provided with time in the garden to learn and grow produce. Our service members have been taking care of the school gardens and utilizing them and the produce growing in them multiple times a week to ensure that students are being exposed to an outdoor education. In the Farm to School program we also focus on ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals and nutrition education, our service members have been extremely integral in this program goal at their respective schools. Activities such as lessons, taste tests, and Cafeteria Captains have given students a wonderful opportunity to take a moment to think about nutrition and how it fits into their daily lives. Finally, the Upland USD mission statement, "Every Single Student, Every Single Day" is greatly supported by FoodCorps' vision: "creating a future in which all of our nation's children- regardless of race, place, or class- know what healthy food is, care where it comes from, and eat it every day". Partnered with FoodCorps our Farm to School Program is changing the way that the students in Upland USD view and interact with food.

**Service Activities Description**

Below are some ways that FoodCorps programming will continue to be used to create a healthier school food environment for three areas of service.

**Hands-on Learning**
- Integrating academic curriculum into gardening activities such as lessons about plant biology, symbiotic garden relationships and the importance of pollinators like bees and butterflies are a great way to provide Hands-on Learning experiences for the students.
- Mental and physical health related lessons can also be integrated into gardening activities such as stretching activities or mindfulness activities which will further a Hands-on Learning mentality.

**Healthy School Meals**
- FoodCorps service members will help to develop seasonal recipes using fresh garden produce to provide and improve upon Healthy School Meals. For example, incorporating garden fresh broccoli into an existing brown rice & teriyaki bowl or blending strawberries into a breakfast smoothie.
- Service members will hold food preparation and cooking classes to integrate Hands-on Learning and Healthy School Meals.

**Schoolwide Culture of Health**
- FoodCorps service members will help maintain and develop school garden grounds and run garden clubs at various times throughout the week so that as many students as possible can participate in and benefit from the garden.
- The service members will work with the schools to organize and host events where student & parent participation is encouraged. This could be a stand-alone or incorporated as a part of the existing event, such as Back to School or Parent Night. Such events will highlight health initiatives and ensure that there is a Schoolwide Culture of Health at both Baldy View and Upland Elementary.

The California state requirements for FoodCorps members states that service members will participate in California Thursdays and Harvest of the Month programs, both currently active and
supported within Upland Unified School District and highlight Food Corps programming goals of Hands-on Learning, Healthy School Meals and schoolwide Culture of Health.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish
**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful

---

**Ravenswood City School District**

**East Palo Alto**

**Community Description**
We are a Tier One, Title One school district consisting of six sites, grades K-8th. The demographic consists of mostly an at-risk, immigrant population.

**Organization Description**
We will have one elementary school = Los Robles Magnet Academy participate. It is a dual-immersion public school.

**Service Activities Description**
Los Robles, Dual-Immersion Magnet Academy: work with the Site Administration to create a schedule where the service member co-leads health and wellness instruction that incorporate gardening days. We would also like our Service Member to support our Afterschool Program with hands-on gardening activities.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

Prefer Spanish speaking
Prefer experience with kids especially with at-risk demographic
Prefer office-skills experienced.
Have some teaching experience...especially with K-5th grade.
Is team oriented.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish
**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful