



## Meriden Public Schools

### City

Meriden

### Organization Description

Meriden Public School District is comprised of 8 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools. There is a total enrollment of approximately 9,000 students, about 68% of whom are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. The Meriden Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services Program is highly renowned on the state and national level. Meriden Public Schools is proud to have many HealthierUS School Challenge Awards and was the recipient of the first HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction under strengthened criteria implemented in 2012. We have an extremely active wellness committee and have been the recipient of many health and wellness grants. Meriden Public Schools is well prepared and excited to continue to educate, prepare, and assist our students, families, and the community in the health and nutrition challenges they face.

### Community Description

Meriden, CT is a urban community with a population of approximately 61,000 people in its 24 square miles. Approximately one third of its residents are Hispanic or Latino. Currently, 68% of the students in the Meriden Public Schools are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Forty-seven percent of Meriden's enrolled students are directly certified for free meals. Households

that are directly certified receive SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps). To put this in perspective, a family of four can have a gross income of no greater than \$597 per week to qualify for SNAP benefits. Clearly these guidelines make it challenging for any household to maintain a food budget that includes a variety of nutrient-dense foods needed for health promotion, disease prevention, and academic success. Meriden Public Schools is a partner with these families to expand access to foods and promote good health and academic achievement.

### **Service Activities Description**

The service members will each focus on two elementary schools in the district. In the schools that have expanded learning time (100 extra minutes added to the school day), the service members will implement hands on lessons related to nutrition education & cooking during that time period. Students will also partner with teachers during the school day to integrate school gardens into classroom lessons. Serving within the district Food Service Department, the service members will be very immersed in the inner workings of school food and wellness on a district-wide level. They will implement cafeteria taste-tests through a "Harvest Of The Month Program", highlighting a different fruit/vegetable each month of the school year. The service members will also focus on reducing waste in the cafeteria through a variety of school-wide promotional events and initiatives.

### **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

The service member should have the ability to be independent and a self-directed leader, as well as a respect for diversity and ability to work with people from all backgrounds. Specific knowledge or education around nutrition and/or school meals is preferred, and knowledge of Spanish is helpful.

### **Helpful Languages**

Spanish

### **Community Type**

Urban

### **Service Members Need Car**

Required

# New Britain ROOTS

## **City**

New Britain

## **Organization Description**

ROOTS is a community-engaged 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting food security. We work with CT farmers, food artisans and healthy food advocates, all while ensuring that healthy food is accessible and affordable to our low-income neighbors with our Mobile Farmers' Market that accepts SNAP. We learn from, work with, and teach with people of all ages, and provide education programs for elementary and high school students on food justice, sustainable farming, and empowered eating practices.

## **Community Description**

The City of New Britain is a small city with a diverse population of 73,000 residents. The racial make-up of the city is approximately 40% white, 40% Hispanic, 15% Black, and 5% other. Large ethnic populations of Puerto Ricans, Polish, and Italians are present in the city. The median household income is \$35,000 and 25% of the population live below the poverty line. Stanley Works, the maker of Stanley tools (now Stanley-Black and Decker), originated in New Britain coining the nickname "Hardware City." New Britain has a popular Double-A baseball team, and the nationally recognized New Britain Museum of American Art. Central Connecticut State University is also located in New Britain, providing various learning opportunities and community programs that engage people of all ages.

## **Service Activities Description**

The service member will be engaged in a variety of community events through New Britain ROOTS, working to engage all members of the New Britain community in health & wellness. The service member will also be immersed in elementary schools in the district, utilizing greenhouses and school gardens through before and after-school programming that teach students how to grow food. The service member will also partner with teachers during the school-day to deliver similar nutrition/garden based lessons. The service member will also work in partnership with New Britain Food Services to

deliver school-wide taste-tests of new & exciting recipes.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

The FoodCorps member will need to be a self-starter. They will need basic gardening knowledge and the enthusiasm to work with youth of all grade levels. The FoodCorps member must show some experience in youth development. Our FoodCorps member currently runs her own programs in addition to joint programming with teachers and food service staff. This means the member must be well organized and able to work independently and collaboratively.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Required

# East Hartford Public Schools

## City

East Hartford

## Organization Description

East Hartford Public Schools is a large, urban district with about 7,000 students. East Hartford Public Schools employees work to deliver a high-quality learning experience for EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY. The Food Services Department oversees the FoodCorps programming, and ensures that all students are well nourished and ready to learn. The department has been improving and expanding their farm to school programming over the past few years, most recently being one of only two districts in the state to send representatives to the prestigious Farm to School Institute in Vermont.

## Community Description

East Hartford is an inclusive urban community with a focus on community engagement, anti-hunger initiatives, and community gardens. The city is located just outside of Connecticut's state capital.

## Service Activities Description

Our service member will be immersed in one elementary school in the district. In the past, we have seen great success with introducing and building community around healthy school food environments by focusing on outcomes around family engagement we are looking to achieve through our Working Cities Grant. In general, the service member will be engaging school community members in goal-setting around farm to school initiatives. Specific activities will include: executing monthly local taste tests, also known as Put Local on Your Tray Day events, developing a school garden program and connecting it to classroom lessons with teachers, implementing a Sprout Scouts (garden-based learning) afterschool program, organizing health and wellness fairs, and reducing waste in the cafeteria by engaging students.

## Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Skills that we would consider useful for this role would be: a willingness to connect with students, parents, principals, cafeteria staff, and teachers. The

service member will need to be a great communicator as they will be involved in a variety of projects with different stakeholders throughout the year. As the service member will also be responsible for teaching a variety of age groups, they should have experience working with children, and the creativity and ability to adapt their activities to different audiences.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Food and Child Nutrition Services - Hartford Board of Education

## **City**

Hartford

## **Organization Description**

Hartford Public Schools' Food & Child Nutrition Services is a self-operated Child Nutrition program located in a diverse urban district in Connecticut in the Northeast region of the country. The program services 48 public and 2 charter schools with a total enrollment of 22,000 students. The 48 public schools participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), meaning that every student is able to eat for free. The program participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), At-Risk Supper Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. We know that only a well nourished child is a student who is ready to learn; our mission reflects this belief by ensuring that every student has access to nutritious, appealing and culturally appropriate foods throughout the school day. Furthermore, our vision is that Hartford Public School students will make healthy food choices which promote a vibrant and successful future!

## **Community Description**

Hartford is Connecticut's capital city, and is the fourth largest city in the state, located right on the Connecticut River. It is nicknamed the "Insurance Capital of The World", with many insurance companies calling Hartford home. It also contains several colleges & universities, the nation's oldest public art museum (Wadsworth Atheneum), and a variety of historical museums and sites. Specifically, our school district is richly diverse and has a strong and vibrant Latino and African American community. Unfortunately, the majority of our families live below the poverty line and encounter multiple psycho-social stressors in their daily lives.

## **Service Activities Description**

As a recent recipient of a USDA Farm to School grant, Hartford FoodCorps service members will be integral to carrying out grant objectives in targeted

schools including increasing student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and implementing hands on lessons about these foods through taste tests and in-classroom and outdoor garden education. They will collaborate with teachers and school administration to connect the cafeteria to the classroom by developing and integrating nutrition education lessons in our six FoodCorps focus schools (2 per Hartford FoodCorps service member). Hartford Food & Child Nutrition Services takes pride in offering Hartford Public School students a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as culturally appropriate menu items. Our FoodCorps service members will continue to be involved in helping us promote these foods with our students during meal times in the school cafeterias. Service Members will also engage with the Hartford School Garden Advisory Team and explore opportunities to start or build upon school garden efforts at each focus school. Although service members will be doing much of these activities at their focus schools, the three members will all be ultimately supervised the Food & Child Nutrition Services, so will have the ability to collaborate as a team to achieve their goals.

### **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

It's important that the service member love working with children, and have experience doing so. Having Bi/Multi-lingual expertise (esp. Spanish) and cultural competence (especially around our Hartford community) would be very helpful as well. Having outside knowledge of nutrition and/or gardening would be a plus. The potential service member should be interested in a fast-paced work environment, and should be able to function well in challenging, and at times, stressful situations. They should be interested in engaging with diverse groups of (sometimes resistant) people, not only students.

### **Helpful Languages**

Spanish

### **Community Type**

Urban

### **Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Windham Public Schools

## City

Willimantic

## Organization Description

Windham Public Schools are unique and vibrant places of learning. Our 7 schools (4 elementary, 1 K-8, 1 Middle School, and one High School) serve roughly 3,000-plus students from diverse backgrounds. Our mission is to provide all students equitable access to a high quality education and graduate students who are prepared to become productive members of society. The school district and community hold a commitment to support cultural and linguistic diversity, deep student engagement, and the pursuit of lifelong learning. Our Vision: Every student, every day, in every classroom will be deeply engaged in their own learning, challenged by high expectations, supported by staff, family, and community, and will graduate with the competence and confidence needed for success.

## Community Description

Windham, Connecticut, is a 27-square-mile town of 24,647 residents in northeastern Connecticut. The town itself is comprised of Willimantic (Algonquin for "land of the swift running waters") which is the urban core of 20,000 residents, and is surrounded by three rural boroughs: North Windham, South Windham and Windham Center. Willimantic was a thriving mill town whose prosperity took a downturn in 1985 with the exodus of the American Thread Company, the town's largest employer. In spite of its economic struggles, though Main Street has many vacant storefronts, it is also the site of an off-beat arts community, a diverse and thriving "Third Thursday Streetfest", an fabulous Farmers' Market, as well as a well-established Food Co-op. The town is surrounded by woods, rivers, and miles of trails for hiking and biking. It is also the home of Eastern Connecticut State University, and is right down the road from the University of CT, both of which draw students and faculty of all persuasions, and multiple other AmeriCorps Service programs.

## Service Activities Description

The Windham Service Member will serve in two elementary schools during the school year. At these schools, the Service Member will take a comprehensive

approach to improving the school food environments, by building on existing efforts to develop sustainable programming in the cafeterias, classrooms, school gardens and afterschool programs. In the cafeterias, the service member will coordinate sourcing of local produce, with programming and evaluation, that includes tastings and activities that are guided by the statewide "Put Local on Your Tray" (harvest of the month) initiative. In the classrooms, the service member will support teachers to develop new food and garden-based instructional units, as well as support curriculum that has been collaboratively developed between the non-profit GROW Windham and local teachers, such as the "Little Chef's" Nutrition and Literacy program for K-2, and the "Kids Dig In!" Science-based curriculum. The service member will be supervised by the district's Family and Community Partnerships office and will therefore work extensively with Afterschool Programs, supporting Cooking and Gardening Clubs.

### **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

The service member should have experience in organizing community events, which require the ability and willingness to be a self-directed leader, and, put yourself out there. Knowledge of latino culture will also be very helpful as many of our students are latinx. As the service member will be both implementing and designing curriculum for the classroom, it will be helpful if they have new, fresh, and creative ideas for lessons, graphic design abilities being a huge plus.

### **Helpful Languages**

Spanish

### **Community Type**

Urban

### **Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Naugatuck Public Schools

## City

Naugatuck

## Organization Description

Naugatuck Public Schools is a K-12 District of about 6,000 students, with: 1 high school (9-12), 1 middle school (7-8), 2 intermediate schools (5-6), and 5 elementary schools (K-4).

## Community Description

Naugatuck is a relatively small borough of 32,000 residents and a median income of \$55,793, nearly \$12,000 less than the state's median income. It sits along Route 8 below the city of Waterbury. Naugatuck is within 10-15 miles of a community college, two four-year colleges and larger cities with more diverse businesses, including: hospitals, corporate offices and access to shows, museums, etc.

## Service Activities Description

We would like a service member to work with one elementary school (K-4), within the district. First, we would like to introduce the FoodCorps based after-school program, Sprout Scouts to students so they have a way to engage in healthy eating outside of the regular school day. Our service member will also partner with teachers to implement in school nutrition & gardening lessons so that are students ultimately what healthy food is and why it is important. The service member will help to involve our students in a healthy food council to work with cafeteria personnel to brainstorm what healthy options could be offered to students and staff. While the service member will spend much of their time at one elementary school, they are ultimately based out of Naugatuck Public Schools Food Services, so they will also help to plan and implement monthly taste-tests in the cafeteria of new recipe ideas that feature local produce.

## Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Our service member will need to be resilient, patient, kind and excited to work with kids. Our students love to work hands-on, so having someone who plans

and assists with authentic, real-world experiences, like growing plants and food, would be important to us and what we value as a district. We would also like our service member to have some understanding of learning processes at the elementary level, and that students learn best by doing!

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish, Portuguese

**Community Type**

Suburban

**Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Norwalk Grows

## City

Norwalk

## Organization Description

Norwalk Grows' mission is to create, sustain, and utilize school gardens as an educational resource in collaboration with Norwalk Public Schools. We envision a future where school garden education helps students in their academics, overall health and wellness, and their contribution to a thriving community. Norwalk Grows is building the framework for garden-based programming that trains students to be leaders in our community. We use classroom learning, high school internships, food tastings, and after school garden clubs to engage students in gardening, food systems issues, and growing food for classroom and cafeteria usage.

## Community Description

Norwalk is a coastal city located in Fairfield County, CT, just one hour from New York City. With a diverse population of almost 85,000, Norwalk is the sixth largest city in the state of Connecticut. Norwalk has many parks and shoreline area activities, a community garden - Fodor Farm community garden, a public golf course, and a public beach. The SoNo area of South Norwalk is one of the most lively areas for young adults with many restaurants, galleries, shops, and attractions. While you will be the only FoodCorps service member serving in Norwalk, there will be other FoodCorps service members in nearby Bridgeport.

## Service Activities Description

Brookside Elementary School - This will be the second year of FoodCorps at Brookside, and we are looking forward to continuing a great partnership with the school community. The school will have a new school garden installed this spring (April 2017) and will be planted and ready for harvest. We will continue providing nutrition education/science/garden classes with the 3rd grade students, and we hope you expand the lessons to more grades in the future. Brookside has a dynamic principal that is ready for anything to improve the lives of her students and school community. There is an existing Healthy School team that is very engaged and willing to try new things! Kendall

Elementary School joined the Norwalk Grows/FoodCorps partnership during the 2016-2017 school year. The principal is very keen to have the healthy programming added to their school, but wants to be very strategic about how the programming is introduced and grown in the school. This will be a great opportunity for a Service Member to continue and expand what was started this past year- including partnering with teachers to implement hands-on garden education, as well as cafeteria staff, to help sustain a new school breakfast program model in the school. Norwalk Grows is part of a larger Collective Impact organization called, Norwalk ACTS (one of Norwalk Grows' co founders is the Executive Director of NACTS). Norwalk ACTS is a diverse partnership of over 100 civic leaders, educators and organizations working collectively to achieve the mission of enriching and improving the lives and futures of all Norwalk's children, cradle to career. Norwalk ACTS focuses on systems change using a Collective Impact model. Through the work with Norwalk ACTS, our service member will be involved in key areas of health and wellness in Norwalk such as school food improvement, policy change and increasing student voice and education.

### **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

We are seeking a Service Member that has great interest in gardening and working hands on with students - networking, teaching classes and perhaps an afterschool gardening club. Also, someone who is willing to work with many community partners who come from all over Norwalk, and many diverse interests. The service member will be juggling a variety of projects with diverse stakeholders, and should be able to work independently at times, but also collaboratively with different groups of people.

### **Helpful Languages**

Spanish

### **Community Type**

Urban

### **Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Norwich Public Schools

## City

Norwich

## Organization Description

Norwich Public Schools is a district consisting of 8 elementary schools, and 2 middle schools. This is a small and diverse district of about 5,200 students. The mission of Norwich Public Schools is to create life long learners that are innovative and driven. We strive to accomplish this through a variety of initiatives, but especially through outdoor learning spaces in school gardens and hands on lessons in classrooms.

## Community Description

Norwich is a medium-size city with rural surroundings. It is an extremely diverse community with many cultures and languages represented. The community is located close to Connecticut's Thames River which is an integral part of the community.

## Service Activities Description

FoodCorps service with Norwich Public Schools will be focused on two schools, and in coordination with Extended Learning Programs. The service member will be part of building a model for connecting after school programming to during the school day learning through service projects and project-based learning centered around nutrition and gardening enrichment. Activities will also build upon the foundation laid from previous FoodCorps service members in connecting the classroom and gardens to the cafeteria through taste tests of local items.

## Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

It is important that the service member be a team player and great communicator, as they will be working with a variety of folks within the school district including but not limited to: after school program coordinators, administrators, teachers, and cafeteria staff. As the service member will be very involved in after-school programming, they will need experience working with groups of children ages 5-13.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish or Haitian Creole

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Helpful

# Middletown Board of Education and Community Health Center

## **City**

Middletown

## **Organization Description**

Community Health Center, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency with the mission of providing primary care and social services to all, particularly to those who cannot gain access to such services elsewhere. The FoodCorps program is coordinated in collaboration with Middletown Public Schools which is a district comprised of 11 schools, and about 5,200 students.

## **Community Description**

Middletown is a mid-sized city of 50,000 people located right in the middle of the state. Main street is rich with community, and contains a variety of cafes, restaurants, book shops, as well as small art/music venues. The city is home to Middlesex Community College and Wesleyan University, meaning there are a variety of educational events and conferences close by throughout the year.

## **Service Activities Description**

This year's FoodCorps service member will serve with the MacDonough and Farm Hill elementary schools, providing nutrition education directly to students, including assisting with the curriculum development. The member will also be responsible for maintaining and increasing student and community participation for the school community gardens. In order to create a healthy school food environment, the member will collaborate with the Food Services Director to implement campaigns and activities within the schools.

Throughout the service year, the member will engage the broader community under the direct supervision of the Family Resource Center Director, who oversees associated programming for both participating schools.

## **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

The service member will need to be independent and self directed, as they will

be juggling a variety of projects with diverse stakeholders. They will also need to be comfortable working with diverse populations, both students and faculty. It will be helpful if the service member has knowledge or experience in gardening, and/or nutrition, but what is most important is that they are excited about and have experience working with kids of all ages.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Helpful

# New Haven Public Schools

## City

New Haven

## Organization Description

The mission of the New Haven Public Schools Food Service Department is to ensure that delicious, healthy meals are available to all New Haven students. We strive to serve good quality meals that utilize ingredients from many local producers and promote the health and wellness of students, so they can be more productive in the classroom. We are an active participant in the Connecticut Farm to School & Farm to Chef Programs.

## Community Description

New Haven is the second largest city in Connecticut, after Bridgeport, and the sixth largest in New England, with a population of about 125,000 people, over 30% of whom live in poverty. New Haven is home to several colleges & universities, including Yale University, which is an integral part of the city's economy, being New Haven's biggest taxpayer and employer. Health care, professional services, financial services, and retail trade also help to form an economic base for the city. In its 20 square miles, New Haven boasts a shoreline, but also a variety of trails to hike through West Rock Ridge State Park, as well as a downtown robust with shops, art galleries, coffee shops, and music venues.

## Service Activities Description

FoodCorps service with New Haven Public Schools will occur in four schools (2 per service member) ripe and ready for the support and energy of a FoodCorps service member. At these schools service members will partner with cafeteria staff, teachers, administrators, and wellness coordinators, to foster a schoolwide culture of health. Specific activities will include, but are not limited to: building & supporting school gardens, interpreting & implementing age appropriate (K-8) nutrition curriculum in the classroom, and facilitating meetings to bring more stakeholders into the process. Although the service members will do much of their service at their two schools, they are ultimately supervised by Food & Nutrition Services, so service members will

also be tasked with planning cafeteria taste-tests with the use of local produce, in accordance with the "Put Local On Your Tray" program.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

Knowledge of basic nutrition principles, knowledge of agriculture in relation to building school gardens, knowledge and proficiency of computer programs such as Word, Excel, and Microsoft Office, are helpful to have for this position.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Helpful

# New London Public Schools

## City

New London

## Organization Description

The mission of the New London Public School Food Service Department is to ensure that delicious, healthy, high quality meals are available to all students. We strive to serve good quality meals that utilize ingredients from local producers and promote the health and wellness of students so they can be more productive in the classroom. New London Public Schools is part of a unique partnership with Chef Daniel Giusti and his company Brigaid. Brigaid puts professional chefs in each school cafeteria to completely re-think school lunch by creating scratch made foods, engaging in nutrition education, and changing the entire attitude around food served in schools.

## Community Description

New London is a small, shoreline city that is only 7 square miles. It is located directly between Boston and NYC, with access to Amtrak through the Shoreline East railway. It is a great place to live because it offers a small city life with a range of restaurants, art galleries, clothing stores, and two grocery stores. It also offers quaint beach community living, with Ocean Beach and Harkness Memorial State Park located not far from downtown.

## Service Activities Description

The schools the service members will be serving in are Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School, Jennings Elementary School, Winthrop Elementary School and Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School. The service members will collaborate with Brigaid chefs in the cafeterias to taste-test new recipes, as well school teachers and administrators to incorporate garden education and curriculum into the classroom.

## Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

It is highly preferred that service members hold a Bachelors degree, or have background in nutrition, or, something equivalent. They will be supervised by the Food Services Department, so should be interested in the inner workings

of school food, but, they will also spend large parts of their day engaging with students, and it is important they enjoy and have experience working with groups of children.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Massaro Community Farm

## City

Woodbridge

## Organization Description

The host site for the Ansonia & Derby communities is Massaro Community Farm, a 57 acre organic farm. A former family dairy farm, the property has been converted to growing vegetables and being an educational community space. In addition to running a 200-member CSA, the farm holds numerous events throughout the year, and hosts a camp and educational field trips, particularly for students from the service area. Established in 2008, Massaro Community Farm, Inc. is a nonprofit, certified-organic farm in Woodbridge, CT, 15 minutes outside New Haven. We are committed to supporting the legacy of farming, feeding our neighbors in need, and building community through our events and hands-on education for all ages.

## Community Description

Ansonia is a former manufacturing community of about 19,000 along the Naugatuck River comprising a post-industrial downtown area and suburban neighborhoods. As your host service site, the farm is located on the border of Woodbridge and Ansonia, serving both those communities and surrounding towns known as the Lower Naugatuck Valley and Greater New Haven regions. There are a number of small towns in the Lower Naugatuck Valley that offer a mixture of outdoor activities, restaurants, theater and other cultural attractions. You will be less than 30 minutes from downtown New Haven, with access to the cultural center of the city (restaurants, theater, music venues, etc) but also close to nearby natural areas: many parks, trails, and waterways. You will be the only FoodCorps service member in Ansonia but will be able to readily interact with FoodCorps members in nearby towns & cities.

## Service Activities Description

FoodCorps service member will focus on Mead Elementary School in Ansonia and Irving Elementary School in the neighboring town of Derby. At Mead, our service member will continue a long partnership by expanding the existing school garden, adding some tools and compost efforts. There is also still an

opportunity to have the surrounding neighborhood use the school garden over the summer, which has not happened to date. As the school is located just down the street from Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, the service member will help organize field trips to the farm. At Irving, the focus will be on partnering with several teachers who have reached out with interest in integrating hands-on learning into their classroom, and the school garden. There will be many opportunities to work with teachers and other staff on multiple efforts happening in this district to improve the lives of students and families, including a new Wellness Committee, and a brand new gym that serves both the school and the community.

### **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

Our service member should have plenty of experience in leading youth in education, preferably outdoor education. Growing/gardening support can be supplied through on site staff at the farm. Some level of community organizing is helpful to bring key players together, as well as organizational management to be organized not only in the preparation of materials, but in keeping records organized for the farm, and in coordinating with other Farm staff.

### **Helpful Languages**

Spanish

### **Community Type**

Suburban

### **Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Naugatuck Valley Community College

## GEAR UP

### **City**

Waterbury

### **Organization Description**

Our service member will report to Naugatuck Valley Community College GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program) office. Their daily activities will take place in GEAR UP cohort schools with a primary focus on Duggan Elementary and Rotella Elementary. They will work with Waterbury Public School staff to expand nutrition education for in-school and after-school programs, develop healthy school menus, and promote school gardens. Our service member will be supervised by the GEAR UP Program Director.

### **Community Description**

Waterbury is an urban center nestled on the Naugatuck River in New Haven County. Waterbury, known as the "Brass City" was the leading center of the brass industry throughout the 20th century. Waterbury is surrounded by the foothills of the Berkshire Mountain Range and lies in close proximity to New York City and Boston.

### **Service Activities Description**

At the two elementary schools, the service member will help maintain existing garden beds by engaging the entire school community, including parents, students, teachers, and administrators. During the school day, the service member will incorporate the gardens into classroom lessons in partnership with several teachers. Additionally, the service member will collaborate with Waterbury Public Schools Food Services to conduct cafeteria taste-tests. They will also be involved in afterschool programming, implementing FoodCorps Sprout Scouts garden-based afterschool program model.

### **Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

The service member will need to be self directed, as they will be involved in a

variety projects, with a diverse array of stakeholders. Experience working with children of any age is a plus.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Required

# Green Village Initiative

## City

Bridgeport

## Organization Description

Green Village Initiative is a small urban agriculture nonprofit in Bridgeport, CT whose mission is to create social, economic, and environmental change through a unified network of urban farms, community gardens, and school gardens. Our close-knit team and our partners promote urban gardening and farming, leadership development and community engagement. Through our urban farm, 23 school gardens, 14 community gardens, and youth leadership program we are on the ground networking with local change makers, growing delicious Bridgeport vegetables, creating spaces for skill sharing, and empowering our youth to make change. Green Village Initiative works collaboratively with municipalities, school systems, and a wide range of nonprofit and for-profit organizations to grow the fair food future we want to see in our city.

## Community Description

Bridgeport is Connecticut's largest city, and is located a little over an hour from NYC and just two hours from Boston along the Connecticut coast with easy public transportation to both. Some of our FoodCorps service members have lived in New Haven and commuted to Bridgeport (about 30 minutes away). The Green Village Initiative office is located in converted industrial lofts, just minutes from the downtown area, which has available housing for FoodCorps service members. Both New Haven and Bridgeport are vibrant and creative cities on Long Island Sound with lovely beaches, renowned museums, many tasty restaurants, great architecture, and a large, young, engaged population.

## Service Activities Description

Our Service Member will serve at one school within our network. Cesar A. Batalla is the largest K-8 Elementary School in New England, and harbors inspiring and enthusiastic teachers, educators and students. Goals for our service member include helping our School Garden Coordinators at Cesar

Batalla to foster even more community engagement within the school garden by linking with the School's Family Resource Center and food service program, providing lesson units to interested educators, and supporting GVI's existing Garden Workshop Series. Additionally, our Service Member will work to deploy and collect feedback on the new Bridgeport School Garden Curriculum that GVI's School Garden Advisory group has created with Bridgeport teachers & Sacred Heart University over the past two years.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

We look forward to working with a FoodCorps Service Member who has strong interpersonal and analytical skills so that they are able to see the big picture, but also feel comfortable communicating details. An ability to comfortably work in an urban educational environment and literacy for food justice challenges facing communities like ours in Bridgeport are deeply appreciated.

**Helpful Languages**

Spanish

**Community Type**

Urban

**Service Members Need Car**

Required