



AtlantiCare

Mailing City

Egg Harbor Township

Organization Description

In support of AtlantiCare's vision to build healthy communities, AtlantiCare encourages and educates people about how to eat healthy, stay active, and establish wholesome habits for a lifetime. Our program addresses the root causes of chronic disease by increasing consumption of healthy foods through the creation of access points for fresh, local produce by way of school and community gardening and food-literacy-themed programming and education. AtlantiCare has partnered with all 11 schools within the Atlantic City School District, as well as 78 other schools in our service area of Atlantic, Cape May, and southern Ocean counties. Our Healthy Schools initiative stresses three main concepts: healthy eating, increased exercise, and emotional wellbeing. The AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children program works together with the Growing Green program to support school gardens with funding and resources, including healthy cooking demonstrations by the Growing Green Chef Council. All but one of the 11 Atlantic City schools hosts a school learning garden through funding by AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children and AtlantiCare Growing Green.

Community Description

Atlantic City is located in Atlantic County, which is one of 21 counties in New Jersey. It is located in the southeastern corridor of the state. Atlantic City is part of the 8.1 mile long Absecon Island, along with Ventnor City, Margate, and Longport. Atlantic City is a socioeconomically and ethnically diverse community with urban neighborhoods, a seasonal beach and bay district, and a city in turmoil with the recent casino closings. According to Census figures, there are 39,558 people, 15,504 households, and 8,558 families residing in Atlantic City. There are hundreds of different languages spoken in the city, and in fact, the school district recently added to their staff a case worker who speaks over 40 languages to meet the needs of the many diverse families who attend their schools. The most common languages other than English are Spanish, Bengali, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Gujarati. The racial makeup of Atlantic City is very diverse with black (42%), white (25%), Hispanic or Latinos (24%), and Asian (9%) making up the majority of the community. The median family income is \$29,200, which is more than \$40,000 below the state average with 34% of persons living below the poverty level (compared to 10% on the state level). According to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 18% of Atlantic County residents report having poor or fair health and 17% are uninsured. Being that Atlantic City is the most diverse community in Atlantic County with the greatest needs, it can be assumed that these percentages may be even greater in Atlantic City itself. Atlantic City's diverse characteristics bring unique healthcare needs and challenges that are as diverse as the people residing in the city -- whether that means serving families with young children, active adults in the prime of their life, or older residents who may be facing age-related issues or living with chronic diseases. Although diversity may bring challenges, it is important to note that such diversity is looked at as a valued community resource by proud Atlantic City citizens who truly care for their community. In addition to economic challenges, many residents of Atlantic City face health disparities which disproportionately increase their likelihood for chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. These diseases are debilitating and can negatively impact one's quality of life. Poor nutrition and the lack of fresh and healthy foods are root causes associated with many chronic conditions. Fresh and healthy foods are nutrient dense and provide the body with much needed vitamins and minerals to prevent illness and manage

disease. Deemed a food desert, Atlantic City was without a proper grocery store within its city limits until recently, and even now offers limited food choices in its corner and convenience stores. As a result, Atlantic City residents not only have issues associated with hunger and food insecurity, but also with inadequate access to healthy foods. This lack of access to healthy and fresh foods directly corresponds to the high incidence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and obesity among the city's residents, and it impacts the health of the City's youth.

Service Activities Description

Atlanticare service members will continue programming established by former Foodcorps members at Chelsea Heights School by connecting school staff to recently enlarged school garden for curriculum enhancement and assist in developing gardening and culinary component to an afterschool program for local students. Service members will assist the AtlantiCare and CARE AC coalition in executing Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health four year grant. Year 3 goals include increasing the number of school and community gardens in Atlantic City and opportunities for cooking demonstrations promoting healthy nutrition; CARE AC's overall goal is to "Make the healthy choice the easy choice" in Atlantic City.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

A service member at AtlantiCare would need to have interest and knowledge in nutrition education (including culinary skills), knowledge about seed starting, garden maintenance, experience in community organizing as well as be outgoing and open to public speaking/presenting. Our service member should have computer skills, including an eye for design when creating materials to be distributed or used in school or community events. Knowledge around social media is a plus!

Helpful Languages

Spanish, Bengali, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Cantonese, Mandarin and Gujarati

Service Members Need Car

Required

Community Type

Urban

New Brunswick Public Schools

Mailing City

New Brunswick

Organization Description

New Brunswick Public School district is an urban school district. We have approximately 10,200 students and 1,675 certified teachers and support staff. Relevant farm to school programming includes: Snap-Ed. and Nurture and nature.

Community Description

New Brunswick Public School district is an urban school district. We are primarily 88% Hispanic, 10% African-American, and 2% other.

Service Activities Description

New Brunswick Public School district is an urban school district. The NBPS service member will serve at three local schools. Programming includes in-class lessons, school garden support, taste test facilitation, and the super fun March Snackness competition. For staying power, the service member will work to engage the broader school district community by collaborating with the PTO, teachers, and the Wellness Council. The NBPS service member also works closely with many relevant food access organizations in New Brunswick; similar local programming includes Snap-Ed and Nurture and Nature. .

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

-Background in nutrition -Has experience with children -Bilingual (Spanish speaking) -Experience helping lower income families make healthy food choices

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required

Philip's Education Partners

Mailing City

Newark

Organization Description

Philip's Education Partners (Philip's Academy Charter Schools) currently serves approximately 435 students in grades K-8 on two campuses, Newark and Paterson, NJ. Utilizing unique learning environments, we seek to inspire students to embrace the highest principles of environmental and nutritional stewardship. The EcoSpaces Education Food Literacy Program's core mission is to teach health/wellness and sustainability in all grades through hands-on learning. Having a FoodCorps service member allows us to support a growing number of school gardens and increases the numbers of students, teachers, and families that benefit from them. It allows us to connect people and community organizations through food and healthy living. In conjunction with the family-style lunch program, our students plant, cultivate and harvest our rooftop garden and indoor growing systems. The garden boasts multiple beds, including those specific to grade level curricula. In addition, the garden acts as an outdoor learning center, which provides a memorable space for discussion and exploration of the environmental world while also insulating our gymnasium (which is directly below the garden) and reducing the energy requirements for heating and cooling. Philip's Academy's rooftop garden is a space in which classrooms can meet outdoors for class discussions, writing, making art, poetry, music, and movement in addition to gathering for meals as a community. Additionally, our online resource ecospacesed.org aims to reach educators, foodservice professionals, and families in order to educate and inspire an increase food literacy and healthy eating at school and in the home.

Community Description

Newark, NJ With a population of around 300,000, Newark is the largest city (by population) in New Jersey. It is the county seat of Essex County and one of the nation's major air, shipping, and rail hubs. Located in the heart of New Jersey's Gateway Region, Newark is the second-largest city in the New York metropolitan area, approximately 8 miles (13 km) west of Manhattan. Its

proximity allows for spending time in NYC and enjoying all it has to offer. Going west, there is access to shopping, outdoor activities, movies, restaurants, etc. Newark is headquarters to numerous corporations, such as Prudential Financial and PSEG. It is also home to several universities, such as Rutgers-Newark (including its law school), the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Seton Hall University's Law School. Among others, its cultural and sports venues include: the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Prudential Center, and the Bears & Eagles Riverfront Baseball Stadium. Newark is divided into five geographical wards and contains neighborhoods ranging in character from bustling urban districts to quiet suburban enclaves. Newark's Branch Brook Park is the oldest county park in the United States and is home to the nation's largest collection of cherry blossom trees.

Paterson, NJ in the 2013-2014 school year, Paterson had over 12,000 kindergarten through eighth grade students in schools that the NJ Department of Education assessed as priority and focus schools, or schools performing within the lowest 10% in the state. This means 65% of kindergarten through eighth grade students were attending schools that were unable to provide these students with the necessary resources to succeed (see chart below). In the 2012-2013 school year, third grade ELA (English Language Arts) school proficiency levels in Paterson were below the state average with approximately 55% of third graders performing below the state average of 66% proficiency. There is substantial demand for more high quality charter schools within Paterson. There are currently over 1,600 students on the waitlists for two of the four existing charter schools in Paterson and no CMOs have plans to expand and launch schools within Paterson in the near future. We expect our student body to be approximately 90% students of color. In Paterson, 2014-2015 kindergarten enrollment data showed approximately 64% of students were of Hispanic descent and 24% were African-American. Based on the most recently available special education classification rates for ages 3-21 from 2013, we anticipate that approximately 14% of our students will have IEPs once we are fully enrolled. Within Paterson, 90% of students in this age range qualify for free or reduced price lunch and 19% are English Language Learners with 50% of Paterson's students speaking a primary language other than English and 37 different languages spoken by Paterson's children. We expect our student population to reflect these demographics. Upon full enrollment, we plan to serve 495 students in grades pre-k through eighth. In 2011, 53.5% of

the population in Paterson was living in households with income levels below 200% of the federal poverty line (Poverty Benchmarks 2013, Legal Services of New Jersey). The current unemployment rate, 9.8%, far exceeds that of the state at 5.6%. In addition, Paterson's high school graduation rate, as of 2013, was 72%. We hope that by bringing our more than 25 years of providing a high quality educational experience that we can begin to shift each of these in a more positive direction over time.

Service Activities Description

The two PACS service members will support the ongoing initiatives around Food Literacy Education within the EcoSpaces Education Program at schools in Newark and Paterson, NJ. The new Philip's Academy Charter School in Paterson will be a major focus for one service member who will support activities that include creating a new garden environment and developing the kitchen classroom and Dining Room as a Classroom platforms. The second service member will focus on assisting with establishing relationships with community and strengthening food procurement plans in the Paterson School District

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Some classroom management experience is always good. Additionally, we would prefer our service member to have knowledge of gardening and agriculture as well as some basic nutrition knowledge and cooking skills.

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Service Members Need Car

Helpful

Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Gloucester County

Mailing City

Clayton

Organization Description

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension helps the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve their lives and communities through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge. Through science-based educational programs, Rutgers Cooperative Extension truly enhances the quality of life for residents of New Jersey and brings the wealth of knowledge of the state university to local communities. The Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS), the community-based nutrition, health promotion, and family wellness outreach component of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, provides workshops and online resources to educate and support families, worksites, schools, and communities to create healthier lifestyles. Healthy Lifestyles FCHS programming provides access to and involvement in a variety of learning opportunities that promote consistent messages about the importance of healthy eating in concert with daily physical activity where consumers live, work, and play. Our programs are designed to be appropriate for worksite wellness, early childcare/ pre-school, youth, adults, and older adults.

Community Description

Gloucester County is unique in that it is an outstanding agricultural, industrial, and residential area. Farming in all of its phases is highly established and developed. Hand in hand with agriculture, the county possesses some of the largest industries of the east. Such a combination of agriculture and industry, together with the location of the county in the metropolitan area of Philadelphia, was bound to result in thriving residential communities. Dotted with woods and beautiful lakes, traversed by beautiful streams, Old Gloucester County possesses a historical background that places it foremost in our country's history. Our service member will live in a rural-turning-suburban area near Philadelphia, Atlantic City, and Delaware. You will be in close proximity to Rowan University,

shopping/dining/entertainment opportunities, fitness opportunities and many, many local farms, farm markets, and farm stands. A car is required for service at this site.

Service Activities Description

The RCEG service member will serve in three schools, collaborating the school community to promote healthy eating of fruits and vegetables, facilitate garden projects, support a grant-funded project identifying farm-to-school opportunities with food service staff, and train school faculty/staff on techniques for curricular integration of garden and food. At Bullock School in Glassboro, NJ, we are working to support gardening efforts and increase involvement of cafeteria/classroom collaborations while identifying more farm-to-school opportunities; this garden is 2 years old and there is tremendous interest in and support of the garden by faculty, staff and administration. Similar programming will occur at National Park School and a third school which we are currently working to identify. The service member will also work with Family & Community Health Sciences to manage an Edible Education networking group of educators from Salem and Gloucester Counties.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Edible education is key to our outreach. Service member must like to cook and engage with schools/students in creating foods that utilize crops from the garden. In winter months, we purchase foods to use in lessons. Service member must be organized and plan lessons in advance in consultation with FCHS and schools so we have a defined, developed outreach outline. (Remember though...things change in schools, so you'll need to be flexible!) We LOVE creativity! We encourage service members to identify a creative project -- print, web, photos, video, etc. -- that they'd like to work on and "create" to use with schools during their service year...and also leave with us for future service members and FCHS staff to use. Service member should be comfortable networking with schools and personnel to facilitate cross-curricular use of gardens and food in classroom education.

Community Type

Suburban

Service Members Need Car

Required

Isles Inc

Mailing City

Trenton

Organization Description

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization based in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, we design and develop effective services that support this mission and share what we learn with others who can make a difference. We have a staff of approximately 60 employees across the organization. Urban Agriculture is part of our Community Planning & Development work, which also includes vacant lot stabilization, arts planning, and mobile recreation. The Urban Ag team consists of two full-time employees and our FoodCorps service member, along with seasonal help, interns, and volunteers. Isles currently supports more than 70 community and school gardens across the city of Trenton by providing technical and organizational assistance to local residents, schools, and other community-based organizations. Isles successfully engages students, grades K-12 and beyond, in agricultural, environmental, and food education. Through gardening and growing food, we are able to demonstrate the significance of growing food locally to improve nutrition, reduce the cost of feeding families, and teach children about the critical connection they have to the earth. Isles works with teachers and students in gardens at over twenty schools in the Trenton area. Since 2013, we have proudly hosted a FoodCorps service member in partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. In addition to gardening education, we provide hands-on cooking workshops and lessons for both youth and families.

Community Description

Isles' urban agriculture services address hunger, food access, and community revitalization in the Trenton region. Despite being New Jersey's capital city and its location in Mercer County, which is one of the wealthiest counties in the country, Trenton is one of New Jersey's poorest cities. Trenton's median household income is more than 50 percent below the median income for

Mercer County. In 2010, the city's poverty rate was 29.2%, with an additional 3,000 Trenton residents falling into poverty last year. Trenton has only two small supermarkets to support a population of more than 80,000 people. Trenton residents, due to lack of transportation or income, are forced to shop at corner and convenience stores, which are found in abundance throughout the city. Because of the lack of healthy food access, Trenton residents are facing health challenges related to the lack of healthy food consumption. The growing prevalence of obesity has reached epidemic proportions in New Jersey, especially in low-income communities like Trenton. Trenton is located approximately halfway between Philadelphia and New York City, and it is close to major highways and regional public transit. Mercer County, in addition to being home to Princeton University, also provides a wide range of recreational and cultural opportunities.

Service Activities Description

The Isles service member will serve in three local elementary schools: Washington Elementary - Kindergarten and 5th grades, Robeson Elementary - 3rd grade, and Grant Elementary - 4th grade. Service is similar at all schools: school garden support, classroom cooking/tastings utilizing seasonally available garden produce, helping community collaboratives, and working with food service providers to increase quality of food available. Isles is a large community organization that started a community farmers market which provides educational opportunities and also offers summer programming related to food and gardening that the service member will collaborate on.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Not necessarily unique to Trenton, but we're looking for someone with strong gardening/farming/ag background and experience with community and youth education. Energy, creativity, and adaptability are key!

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required

Coopers Ferry Partnership

Mailing City

Camden

Organization Description

Get healthy Camden is focused on improving health and health outcomes of the City of Camden by creating a culture of health. Since 2010, this program, formerly named New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids-Camden, was led by the YMCA of Burlington & Camden Counties and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey until March 2016. Cooper's Ferry Partnership is now serving as the backbone of Get Healthy Camden. Our partner, Campbell Soup Company's Healthy Communities Initiative, has a goal to reduce childhood obesity and hunger by 50% in the city of Camden with core focus areas - Food Access, Physical Activity/Access, Nutrition Education, and Public Will - to drive strategy, engagement, and investment. The initiative's common agenda is to improve the health of young people in Campbell hometown communities. Together, we are working with schools, organizations, and the local government to reduce childhood obesity and hunger through various strategies.

Community Description

The city of Camden is the county seat of Camden County, New Jersey. Camden was originally incorporated as a city in 1828. Once a thriving center for manufacturing and industry, Camden, like most American cities, suffered a decline in the 20th century, losing both major employers and population. Currently, Campbell Soup Company and L-3 Communications (formerly Lockheed Martin) are among the city's largest employers. The University District, adjacent to the downtown, is home to Camden County College, Rowan University, Rutgers-Camden University, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, and the Coriell Institute for Medical Research. While the city's history is noted for its challenges, its future is marked by the commitment of its community, business owners, and civic leaders to a brighter future. Camden's economic base is strengthened by its ever-increasing number of both large and small businesses. The arts community continues to grow with the addition of a City Symphony and area art shows.

Parks, trails, and greenways are currently under renovation and creation, increasing the recreational opportunities within city borders. Communities are working together to redevelop their neighborhoods. Federal and state funds are being utilized to repair infrastructure, utilities, streets, and homes. A car is required for service at this site.

Service Activities Description

As part of the Campbell Healthy Communities Initiative for 2017, the following schools will be participating and receiving some level of programming from our service member. Next year, our service member will be assigned office space at KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy (KIPP) which is also home to one of Center for Family Services (CFS) locations. The majority of the service member's time will be at KIPP and CFS providing classroom and cafeteria programming and technical garden assistance in collaboration with other local school food organizations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

-Familiarity with Camden, NJ and/or any other 'at-risk' urban city. -Basic class management experience with urban city students. -Knowledge about social change/systems change/policy and environmental change

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required

Greater Newark Conservancy

Mailing City

Newark

Organization Description

The Greater Newark Conservancy promotes environmental stewardship to improve the quality of life in New Jersey's urban communities. We achieve our mission through our interrelated program areas including Environmental Education, Community Greening & Urban Agriculture, Environmental Justice, and Job Training. Our FoodCorps service member will serve with our Urban Farming and Farm to School initiatives. We have two major urban farms (one is 1 acre and the other is 2.5 acres) that yield over 6 tons of produce a year. We operate multiple school gardens and provide ongoing weekly educational programming to the associated schools. From June to November, we run weekly farm stands that make the fresh produce we grow available to the surrounding neighborhoods at a fraction of the price you would find at any supermarket in Newark. These youth-driven farm stands accept WIC, SNAP, and Senior Farmers Market Vouchers and are mobile, which allows us to offer them at a variety of locations across the city in response to community need. We are developing a farm to school program in which the fresh produce that is grown in the school gardening program is available to the students and lessons on the importance of a well balanced diet are provided.

Community Description

Newark, NJ is the state's largest city, located just 10 miles west of New York City. Newark is an urban environment with a sizable low to moderate income population. Newark is home to roughly 60,000 university students, and there are about 40,000 students in its public school system. Newark has some vibrant neighborhoods, such as Forest Hill and the Ironbound District, and is home to the largest collection of cherry blossom trees in the nation with over 4,000 trees. The cherry blossom trees are found in Branch Brook Park which was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, the designer of New York City's Central Park. The resources and diversity found in Newark make it a great place to live and work.

Service Activities Description

The Greater Newark Conservancy promotes environmental stewardship to improve the quality of life in New Jersey's urban communities by utilizing urban farm space, community programming, and summertime farm stands. Our FoodCorps service member will serve with our Urban Farming and Farm to School initiatives. This service member will primarily serve in two local elementary schools. Hawthorne Elementary (preK-8) is located adjacent to GNC's Hawthorne Avenue Farm and is a primary location for service; the school has a dedicated classroom and garden space for farm-to-school activities. The service member will also work with nearby Clinton Hill Early Childhood Center to continue the "Readers to Eaters" program engaging early learners in tasting experiences.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The most important characteristics for work at this site are flexibility, tenacity, and good humor. Organizational skills, especially community organizing and the ability to initiate, pursue, and maintain partnerships with individuals and organizations is particularly helpful.

Helpful Languages

Spanish or Portuguese

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required

United Way of Passaic County

Mailing City

Paterson

Organization Description

The United Way of Passaic County envisions a community where every child is ready to succeed in school, every person can meet their most basic needs and everyone can pursue productive and satisfying lives. The office of roughly eight employees takes on sustainable programming that focuses on education, financial stability, and, hunger. UWPC leads a bimonthly Food Policy Council and has deep connections with local Head Start programs in its efforts to further the Farm to Preschool movement! Passaic County Food Policy Council is a group of stakeholders working to ensure that all Passaic County residents have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious, and affordable foods that supports a sustainable and economically viable local food system.

Community Description

Paterson, NJ is New Jersey's third-largest city, with a population of close to 150,000. Paterson boasts a high level of racial and ethnic diversity, and many communities of new immigrants. Regions of the world represented in Paterson include Central and South America, Caribbean islands, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. According to the Paterson Public School district, there are more than 50 "first languages" spoken in the homes of school children. As an urban city that was founded on manufacturing, unemployment and poverty are persistently high. Access to healthy, fresh, affordable food is a challenge for residents. A car is required for service at this site.

Service Activities Description

The United Way of Passaic County envisions a community where every child is ready to succeed in school, every person can meet their most basic needs and everyone can pursue productive and satisfying lives. The service member will serve in three schools at the beginning of their service year. Two of the schools are Head Start (preschools), one of which may be graduating from the program soon. The other school is a Paterson public school elementary school. The service member will be implementing nutrition, garden, cooking,

and physical activity programming for students, teachers, and parents and training school staff to implement the programs themselves. The service member will also work with wellness committees in each of the schools to create policy and environmental change in the school.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The service member should be a self starter and able to work independently. He/She should have experience working with children ages 3-10. Conversational Spanish is required for this position.

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required