

Indy Hunger Network Community Outreach VISTA 2020

Indy Hunger Network is using technology to increase nutritious food donations and connect people to food assistance. Help us inform the community about our new tools to reduce food insecurity!

- Term of service: June 8, 2020 – June 7, 2021
- To apply: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=93359&fromSearch=true>
- For more information: Mary Hayes, VISTA Coordinator, Indy Hunger Network / mary@indyhunger.org

Service Description:

In this role, you will help us spread the word about Food Drop and Community Compass, two exciting and growing initiatives of the Indy Hunger Network (IHN). IHN is a coalition of hunger relief agencies working to ensure that anyone who is hungry can access the nutritious food they need. Food Drop (fooddropIN.org) is a website that helps truckers redirect undeliverable loads of food to food banks instead of landfills. Community Compass is a new smart phone app and SMS text service that connects people to available sources of free food in Indianapolis.

Your work will focus on outreach to partner organizations and the general public about these two tools, through community events, small group trainings, and one-on-one meetings. We are looking for someone who enjoys interacting with people from all different backgrounds and is comfortable working independently.

By the end of your service term, you will have redirected hundreds of pounds of food from landfills to the homes of people needing food assistance, and helped to provide information and training to hundreds of new Community Compass users! The position also offers:

- Camaraderie with 5 other VISTAs working under the Indy Hunger Network umbrella
- Team engagement activities, including bi-weekly meetings to discuss projects, socialize, and hear from guest presenters
- Mentoring, one-on-one coaching, and professional development trainings
- Assistance preparing for life after VISTA (resume review, interview prep, etc.)
- Opportunities to work with leaders in the hunger relief space
- Opportunities to work independently and lead on projects

The position is housed at Gleaners Food Bank on the southwest side of Indianapolis and will involve some travel. You will co-work with 1 other VISTA + 3 IHN staff members. Indianapolis is easy to navigate, has a growing indie restaurant/craft beer/coffee scene, and lots of places to play and recreate!

Member Duties:

The Community Outreach VISTA will help to expand Food Drop and educate the about the new Community Compass app, two exciting and growing initiatives of the Indy Hunger Network. The VISTA will:

- Develop and implement an outreach plan to promote Food Drop to truckers, food banks and other partners
- Gather donation data from participating food banks to assess the effectiveness of Food Drop
- Attend community events to spread the word about Community Compass

- Provide training to partner organizations, including health-care systems, food pantries, schools, and community centers, on usage of the app

During your VISTA term, you will be one of 6 VISTAs working under the umbrella of the Indy Hunger Network (IHN). IHN regards its VISTAs as a cohort moving through a transformational year-long experience. To help you maximize this experience, we employ a VISTA Coordinator to provide mentoring and professional development to the VISTAs. See the benefits in the Program Description!