

Westminster Pantry Coordinator 2020

As a VISTA for Westminster Neighborhood Services you will be instrumental in helping support and empower families through access to healthy foods and nutritional education.

- Term of service: June 8, 2020 – June 7, 2021
- To apply: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=93357&fromSearch=true>
- For more information: Mary Hayes, VISTA Coordinator, Indy Hunger Network / mary@indyhunger.org

Service Description:

Westminster has been providing education support, access to basic needs, and community connections to empower neighbors and strengthen youth and families on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis for more than 35 years. Programming includes an afterschool and summer program, food pantry, and a soup kitchen. Westminster partners with organizations to also offer adult education, medical services, and counseling.

The VISTA member will expand and improve the Family and Adult Services programs. This includes the food pantry, soup kitchen, and adult education services. Westminster serves 150 families weekly at the food pantry and wants to increase the amount of nutritious food offered. Westminster hopes to expand the adult education program to include cooking and health classes to help our neighbors utilize the foods often found in the food pantry in a healthy way. Westminster is also exploring expanding pantry hours by adding a third day and will need to secure funding, volunteers, and donated food to help meet the needs of so many in our area in this way.

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, including current and retired corporate executives and non-profit agency heads
- Opportunities to work independently and lead on projects

Westminster is located on the near-east side of Indianapolis, within easy reach of both downtown Indy and the popular Irvington neighborhood. 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 Pantry Coordinator will expand nutritional and education offerings and build capacity for adding a third pantry day per week. The VISTA will:

- Research meal planning, and cooking and nutrition classes, centered on pantry days and the foods given out at the pantry

- Research kids cooking and nutrition classes for afterschool and summer programming
- Create recipes for pantry foods
- Write grant proposals to expand pantry hours and increase fresh foods
- Work with local farmers markets to secure food donations
- Identify new donors to secure monetary and food donations

You will be based at Westminster, but you will also 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, they employ a VISTA coordinator to provide mentoring and professional development to the team. See the benefits in the Program Description!