

**Feeding Wisconsin Network Engagement AmeriCorps\*VISTA  
VISTA Assignment Descriptions (VADs)**

VAD Title	Feeding Wisconsin Network Engagement VISTA
Site Name	Feeding Wisconsin
Primary Focus Area	Healthy Futures
Secondary Focus Area	n/a
Goal of the Project (750 charact)	<p>This VISTA project will develop long-term solutions to alleviating poverty by building the capacity and engagement of our Feeding Wisconsin network--6 food banks, almost 1,000 local food programs, external partners, and clients. Our mission is to work with stakeholders to fight hunger, improve health, and strengthen communities.</p> <p>The support of AmeriCorps*VISTA members will improve our statewide strategies in engaging clients and partners to drive impact that addresses short and long term food security. The VISTA Member will perform assessments, organize convenings including a virtual statewide conference, develop communications to expand awareness, and create opportunities for participation of those with lived experiences of hunger.</p>
Performance Period (start date-end date)	04/12/2021 - 04/11/2022
Objective Description 1	<p><b>Client Engagement</b> The VISTA will support our efforts to give power to those with lived experiences. By compiling and publishing pantry client survey results, conducting phone interviews, and exploring other ways of engaging and empowering those with lived experiences, we will ensure that we are creating programs and providing services that are truly meeting the needs and maintaining dignity of those we serve.</p>

<p>Member Activity 1</p>	<p><b>Activity 1: Research.</b> Review COVID-19 Food Insecurity Pulse Survey (conducted in Fall of 2020). The survey was conducted to help us gain a better understanding of the households served by our network; determine barriers faced by clients served by our network; determine resources that households access in an attempt to stabilize their lives; and understand perceptions of pantry experiences and services.</p> <p><b>Activity 2: Communicate Pulse Survey Findings</b> Support creation of public materials alongside our UW research team to publish results of COVID-19 Food Insecurity Pulse Survey. Tailor publications to various stakeholder groups (food banks, food pantries, external partners, etc.) to provide meaningful data to inform their work.</p> <p><b>Activity 3: Conduct Phone Interviews with SNAP Outreach Services Clients</b> Conduct follow up calls with individuals who have utilized Feeding Wisconsin SNAP Outreach Services to apply for benefits. These interviews will help us better understand client perception of service quality and the need for additional assistance to inform our program planning.</p> <p><b>Activity 4: Explore ways to more Deeply Engage Clients in our Program Planning and Implementation</b> Led by the VISTA members discoveries through the survey and phone interviews, create strategies to integrate the participation of those with lived experiences in our planning and program implementation.</p>
<p>Objective Description 2</p>	<p><b>Food Bank Network Engagement</b> The VISTA member will convene member food bank network staff to support multiple aspects of food banking work (development, communications, programs, food sourcing, etc.). In doing so, these convenings will create a forum for sharing best practices and building capacity through partnership and creation of collaborative initiatives across our statewide ending hunger effort.</p>
<p>Member Activity 2</p>	<p><b>Activity 1: Food Bank Network Assessment</b> Survey and evaluate the needs of our internal partners (member food bank staff) to understand the role that Feeding Wisconsin can play in creating and facilitating a forum for information sharing and creation of collaborative initiatives..</p> <p><b>Activity 2: Expand/Strengthen Partnerships/Networks</b> Convene member food bank network staff around specific areas of work (development, communications, programs, food sourcing, etc.) to share best practices and build capacity of our statewide ending hunger efforts.</p> <p><b>Activity 3: Material and Technology Development</b> Gather and record learnings and best practices for ending hunger efforts in a living document for our members to reference and build on. If there is an expressed desire for it as a result of the stakeholder survey, creating a more robust resource</p>

	and networking space.
Objective Description 3	<p><b>Community Partner Engagement</b> Support the statewide capacity of stakeholders working in and around ending hunger work. By successfully planning a statewide Hunger and Health Summit the VISTA member and conference planning team will bring together 200+ cross-sector stakeholders to share best practices and advance the work of our network.</p>
Member Activity 3	<p><b>Activity 1: Research</b> Survey and evaluate the needs of our external partners (hunger and health stakeholders to understand how best Feeding Wisconsin can facilitate a statewide conference to support sharing of best practices to end hunger, collaborative learning, and partnership development that leads to programs of greater impact.</p> <p><b>Activity 2: Expand/Strengthen Partnerships/Networks</b> Plan a virtual Hunger and Health Summit, convening hunger and health stakeholders from multiple sectors (emergency food network, healthcare, academic, government agency, business, etc.) share best practices and explore collective work to end hunger and improve health in Wisconsin.</p> <p><b>Activity 3: Material and Technology Development</b> Utilize Socio Conference App to gather and record learnings and best practices for ending hunger efforts for conference participant reference and engagement.</p> <p><b>Activity 4: Conference Evaluation</b> Create, distribute, and analyze participant evaluation of virtual Hunger and Health conference. Compile findings and recommendations to inform future conferences.</p>
Objective Description 4	<p><b>Network Communication to Increase Community Awareness</b> Support capacity building of Feeding Wisconsin's communication efforts. By building awareness of hunger in Wisconsin and Feeding Wisconsin network resources, we can engage the community in supporting ending hunger work through funds, volunteering, and promotion. The VISTA member will support the creation and execution of a communication plan to expand community knowledge of regional and statewide food insecurity and current ending hunger efforts.</p>
Member Activity 4	<p><b>Activity 1: Support Network Communications Capacity</b> Expand community knowledge of food insecurity in Wisconsin and current anti-hunger efforts by supporting Feeding Wisconsin in drafting and executing a communication strategy.</p> <p><b>Activity 2: Community Awareness and Engagement</b> Identify, gather, and publish best practices, client stories, and impactful ending hunger projects via Feeding Wisconsin's newsletter and social media.</p>