



AMERICORPS

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**



**GROW
OHIO
VALLEY**

Local Food Systems Service Positions

A food system encompasses the path food travels from farm to fork. It includes growing, harvesting, processing, distributing, marketing and disposing of food. Improve social justice in Rustbelt Appalachia by joining Grow Ohio Valley's efforts to improve local food systems. Grow Ohio Valley (GOV) is seeking year round and partial year positions to work on all aspects of its nationally recognized efforts to improve food justice in Wheeling, West Virginia and the surrounding region. Positions will rotate responsibilities through all aspects of GOV's many initiatives, including:

- Farm-work on urban farms, including planting, monitoring and harvesting organically grown food crops
- Planting and tending a new urban orchard
- Coordinating food hub logistics and aggregation from other farmers
- Planning and operating a mobile farmers market to improve food access
- Working at farm stands and distributing weekly food baskets
- Developing school and community gardens
- Outreaching to community members to grow more food
- Helping to deliver adult and student educations programs around growing and cooking food
- Germinating seedlings and transplanting them at farms
- Marketing and administrating program and fundraising activity

These are unique positions that offer successful candidates exposure to all aspects of farming and food hub operations.

Candidates should have demonstrated interests in social justice, urban agriculture, education, and/or food systems work, with a desire to reduce poverty, a passion for service, and readiness to work with their hands. Members will integrate into GOV's core operations in food justice and local food access, as well as facilitate garden-based learning in schools and communities. GOV is searching for exceptional candidates to fill these key roles.

These are full time positions, with opportunities to onboard per the following schedule:

<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Duration (months)</u>	<u># of positions</u>
January	12	2
April	6	3
May	4.5	6
July	3	2

Position Description

Positions will rotate through all aspects of GOV's far reaching initiatives to improve food systems, including farming, education programs, food distribution, marketing, and administration. Thus members will gain broad exposure to food systems work. That said, members may gravitate toward specific responsibilities that include:

- Working on urban farm sites to plant, cultivate and harvest organically grown food crops.
- Operating a mobile market, or working at farm stands to distribute fresh local produce.
- Planting an urban orchard and monitoring the health of trees as they grow.
- Improving transportation and distribution procedures to maximize food aggregation operations efficiency while minimizing transportation costs.
- Maintaining dry and cold storage to prevent product loss, communicating and coordinating with area farmers, and other relevant logistic related duties.
- Developing food hub strategies that can expand network of farm suppliers
- Maintaining equipment and constructing facilities as necessary
- Performing administrative duties to support the Executive Director and/or program staff
- Developing and maintaining positive relationships with local growers and farmers
- Scheduling and coordinating day-to-day operations of transportation and storage of products, as well has farming operations
- Scheduling delivery and pick-up appointments through transportation network
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with employees, supervisors, and the public
- Making connections in the community for program outreach and enhancement
- Assisting AmeriCorps members and staff in programming and activities, and training, overseeing, and utilizing volunteer base
- Accepting responsibility for maintaining productive work schedule
- Supporting program staff, supervisors, and administrative staff in duties as necessary
- Consulting supervisor with ideas, issues, or concerns, offering analysis and solutions
- Practicing sound health habits, including getting sufficient rest, to effectively perform position requirements
- Learning organizational emergency procedures and following emergency instructions

These are full time positions that require **35 hours/week** minimum. AmeriCorps members are critical to enhancing and expanding GOV's programs to provide greater food security in the larger Wheeling community. AmeriCorps members will be expected to attend organization and state trainings, participate in other service activities, and assist with other aspects of the GOV programs as necessary. These positions will take shifts working in other aspects of GOV's food systems work, so that they have broad exposure to the many facets of food systems improvements. Other active sites include an urban orchard, greenhouses, an urban farm, a mobile market, weekly food baskets programs, and student and adult cooking and gardening education programs.

Candidate Qualifications

GOV is seeking an exceptional candidates who can play a strong role expanding our mission to improve food justice and create robust local food systems, while we build sustainable cash flows. While no requirement is hard and fast, ideal candidates would embody the following qualities, experience and background.

Essential Skills

- Be familiar with operation of farm tools and other equipment
- Speak publicly to lead group discussions, training, and programs
- Write and speak competently and professionally
- Use a computer, including the Windows suite of programs, email, and social media
- Operate a motor vehicle and possess a valid driver's license
- Lift fifty pounds

Preferred Educational Background/Experience

- Agricultural labor experience
- Education studies or teaching experience
- Agronomy
- Soil sciences
- Logistics Management

About Grow Ohio Valley

GOV's mission is to transform the Ohio Valley through improved food justice. This is achieved by a variety of programs, including: organic urban agricultural production, school garden programs, community supported agriculture initiatives, neighborhood farm stands, and a traveling mobile organic market. The organization emphasizes an innovative, agricultural approach to poverty and encourages independence among its staff. Now completing its third season, GOV has demonstrated a successful track record and proven itself a positive change agent in the redevelopment of rust-belt Appalachia.

Compensation and Benefits

- A modest living allowance up to \$12,530 for a full year of service, \$6,265 for 6 months of service, \$4,698 for 4.5 months of service, and \$3,132 for 3 months of service
- An educational award of \$5,775 for a full year of service, adjusted proportionally for shorter terms
- Possible forbearance of qualified student loans
- Vacation and personal days
- Childcare benefits for qualified individuals
- Seasonal food contributions and low cost housing available

TO APPLY:

Send a cover letter expressing your interest and why you are a good fit for the position and salary, as well as your understanding of AmeriCorps and National Service, and the role of local food in a community. Include your resume and least two professional references. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Submit by email to Recruitment@GrowOV.org or by post to 1006 Grandview Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Each applicant will receive email notification that their packet has been received. Eligible applicants will be contacted for interviews on a revolving basis. Calls will not be accepted at this time. Questions can be emailed to Recruitment@GrowOV.org.