TITLE: School Garden Program Specialist

HOURS OF SERVICE: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M–F with occasional evening and weekend hours TBD

POSITION DESCRIPTION:
The AmeriCorps Member will work with at-risk youth in Lacey and Olympia Schools, providing individual and small group tutoring, and engaging students in gardening and nutrition activities designed to improve their self-esteem, readiness to learn, behavioral engagement, and dietary quality. In collaboration with the program manager, the ACM will recruit volunteers to maintain garden/education programs and develop curriculum for use at these sites. During the summer months and school breaks the ACM will provide support at the food bank and support our summer lunch program.

SITE DESCRIPTION:
The Thurston County Food Bank has provided food to clients in the greater Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater area since 1972. We serve 16,000 families annually, in the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. In our effort to improve the overall nutrition of those we serve, and to prevent hunger and malnourishment, we have developed collaborative, school-based nutrition and garden programs in recent years.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED TASKS:

- Lead garden and nutrition classes for small groups at five schools
- Tutor children individually or in small groups in reading and math
- Develop garden and nutrition curriculum, in collaboration with program manager.
- Lead students in packing “mini-CSA’s” for low-income students
- Assist in Farm stands at schools
- Assist in a school wide Field Trip program to a food bank garden.
- Assist in school field trips to the food bank.
- Host 5 family engagement evenings; Community Access Nights.
- Recruit and train volunteers to maintain garden and nutrition programs.
- Attend monthly Thurston County Food Bank staff meetings and nutrition services team meetings.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Some college preferred with a focus in education, nutrition, horticulture, or related field.
- Ability and interest in working with K-6th grade children with diverse backgrounds.
- Ability to pass a background check
- Ability to work independently. Self starter.
- Strong communication and organizational skills.

All positions will abide by AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities in the YIS Service Agreement.