

AMERICORPS MEMBER POSITION DESCRIPTION



COMMUNITY FOOD AND GARDEN ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Member Name: TBD	Start Date: 9/25/2026
Program Name: Iowa Community Corps	End Date: 6/17/2027
Host Site: Global Greens, Lutheran Services in Iowa	Member Term: Three Quarter Time
Service Location: Des Moines, IA	Living Allowance amt: \$16,000

Position Summary

The Iowa Community Corps AmeriCorps program is a statewide effort to strengthen communities through increased access to resources to support health and wellbeing. AmeriCorps members serve directly with local organizations to expand their ability to reach and support the people they serve, while gaining professional training to launch or grow a career in community health.

Global Greens is a collaborative initiative of Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) that supports farmers with refugee backgrounds in growing food, connecting with land, and strengthening local food systems. Global Greens brings communities together through urban agriculture, farmers markets, community gardens, and hands-on learning that helps neighborhoods thrive. As the Community Food & Garden Engagement Coordinator, you'll help expand community gardens, support food pantry operations, develop farm-based learning experiences, and create spaces where youth, families, and neighbors can connect through food, land, wellness, and culture. Working alongside farmers, youth, and local partners, you'll spark meaningful engagement, grow opportunities for learning, and help build a more vibrant, food-secure Des Moines. This role is part of the Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC), a national initiative helping improve youth mental health in schools while offering members a meaningful pathway into behavioral health careers.

Schedule: Member will serve approximately 35 hours per week, Monday through Friday, between 8am-4:30pm.

AmeriCorps Member Activities

Community Garden Engagement & Wellness

- Plan and lead wellness, educational, and community-building activities, including garden workdays and seasonal events
- Recruit, coordinate, and co-lead volunteers for garden and farm support
- Support garden documentation, intake events, data collection, and creation of gardener resources
- Support garden documentation, assist with intake events, and help streamline data collection
- Help plan, develop, and support new garden sites, resource distribution, and coordinator meet-ups
- Conduct outreach to engage underserved communities and recruit new gardeners
- Contribute to communications, including social media, newsletters, and materials for classes or workshops

Expanded Urban Agriculture Locations & Programming

- Support produce donations to elders, food pantries, and other community programs
- Co-lead winter educational sessions for farmers, aspiring growers, and gardeners
- Build partnerships with local health organizations and community groups
- Represent Global Greens at community and food system meetings
- Strengthen food pantry operations and produce donation systems at Global Greens sites
- Recruit and coordinate volunteers for planting, weeding, and harvesting activities
- Assist with record-keeping for produce donations from gardens, farmers, and CSA extras

Farm-Based Learning & Engagement

- Research sustainable agriculture practices, demonstration farm models, and youth farming programs
- Create summaries or reports that help guide farm-based learning opportunities
- Help plan or develop demonstration plots and farm-based learning spaces

- Coordinate educational sessions, tours, field trips, or community events for youth and adults

Youth Engagement & Learning

- Collaborate with mental health professionals to co-create youth gardening and wellness activities
- Identify opportunities for children of Global Greens farmers to participate in farm or garden learning
- Recruit and support youth volunteers and youth-serving partners

Growing Community Spaces & Networks

- Assist with planning for potential greenhouse or hub locations
- Help develop “Garden in Every Lot” pilot concepts and spring implementation plans
- Support the community growing network by coordinating partners and helping with meetings
- Engage Youth & Community at the Global Greens Market
- Share information with customers about food access programs like SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks
- Coordinate fun, youth-focused activities at the farmers market
- Conduct cooking or farming demonstrations and help lead community engagement events
- Connect with shoppers to recruit new gardeners for future growing seasons
- Provide clear communication and support throughout the drive to ensure success

Desired Skills/Qualifications:

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| • Ability to lift 50lbs | • Basic computer skills |
| • Read, write, type, and communicate in English | • Interest in food systems, gardening, or agriculture |
| • Comfort engaging with diverse communities | • Apply common sense to carry out instructions |