



Collective Roots HealthCorps Job Description

What is the Silicon Valley HealthCorps?

In an innovative new partnership, The Health Trust has joined together with AmeriCorps and nine local organizations to form the Silicon Valley HealthCorps. The goal of this collaboration is to use gardens, farm to school programs and the work of 46 AmeriCorps members to bring fresh fruits, vegetables and education to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The program seeks to engage the community as active participants in promoting and sustaining community and school gardens, and to provide a coordinated, county-wide approach to expanding garden based learning. The program will also increase access to fresh produce through the development of new school and community gardens, low-cost farm stands, and by utilizing a farm-to-school model to increase the amount of fresh and local produce served in school lunches.

What is Collective Roots?

The mission of Collective Roots is to educate and engage youth and communities in food system change through sustainable programs that impact health, education, and the environment. Collective Roots achieves its mission through the innovative integration and implementation of two core program areas: garden-based education and food systems change. We rely on extensive collaboration and partnership to enable all aspects of our work, and we receive the support of hundreds of volunteers in order to achieve our goals and objectives.

Food System Change Agent (1 full-time position)

Member will implement innovative community- and school-based programs and activities designed to increase food access, improve health outcomes, and engage local community members in advocating for positive change in their food system. Activities will primarily include: (1) teaching garden-based learning programming for grades K-8, and (2) supporting a backyard gardener network in East Palo Alto.

(1) teaching garden-based learning programming for grades K-8 (50%)

- prepare for and implement garden, environmental, nutrition and food curriculum in programs for K-5, middle and high school grades;
- support the garden programs by helping with class planning and preparation, garden maintenance, tool and materials maintenance and other organization;
- document programs for the Collective Roots website and e-newsletter;
- create and document curriculum for educational programs;
- assist with projects to maintain and improve the garden and garden programs.
- assist with monthly Saturday garden work day

(2) supporting a backyard gardener network in East Palo Alto (50%)

- design the infrastructure to support the new backyard gardener network;
- obtain materials and supplies to support the development of new backyard gardens;
- organize network programming (guest speakers, seed exchanges, social events);
- provide gardening assistance and mentoring to members;
- attend community events and deliver community presentations to promote the network;
- reach out to partner organizations, groups and residents to establish points of collaboration;
- develop and distribute outreach materials; and
- support the continued development of the network.

This position involves working with teachers, staff, students and parents at various Collective Roots partner school sites. It includes extensive out-of-office work in the community and building relationships with local residents, so written and spoken proficiency in a second language (Spanish, Tongan or Samoan) is highly recommended.

Garden Educator (2 quarter-time paid positions)

Garden Educators will work with the Collective Roots K-5 Instructor and/or Middle School Garden Educator to:

- prepare for and implement garden, environmental, nutrition and food curriculum in programs for K-5, middle and high school grades;
- support the garden programs by helping with class planning and preparation, garden maintenance, tool and materials maintenance and other organization;
- document programs for the Collective Roots website and e-newsletter;
- create and document curriculum for educational programs;
- assist with projects to maintain and improve the garden and garden programs; and
- assist with monthly Saturday garden work day.

This position involves working with teachers, staff, students and parents at various Collective Roots partner school sites.

Program Details:

Program Location: East Palo Alto
Program Start/End Date: October 2010 to September 2011

Program Benefits:

Living Allowance: \$16,000 stipend for full-time members, \$4,000 for quarter-time (distributed bi-weekly)
Education Award: \$5,350 for full-time members, \$1,415 for quarter-time awarded after completion of service
Health Insurance: For full-time members only

Please direct inquiries to Katie Smith at katies@healthtrust.org or (408) 961-9899.
Or visit www.healthtrust.org/svhealthcorps for more information.