

## Food Access Coordinator Capital Roots



**Capital Roots** is striving to create a more vibrant and equitable food system in NY's Capital Region. We work to reduce the impact of poor nutrition on public health in our region by organizing community gardens, providing healthy food access, offering nutrition and horticulture education for all ages and coordinating urban greening in the four county region. Our mission: We cultivate and nourish communities by creating equitable access to fresh food and green spaces in support of a robust regional food system. Go to [www.capitalroots.org](http://www.capitalroots.org) to learn more about our organization.

*We seek a candidate who champions access, availability, and equity, and wishes to learn more about our regional food system.*

### Goals and Duties of The Position:

The VISTA, serving as **Food Access Coordinator**, will focus on Retail Market footprint, specifically the organization's Healthy Stores in the Capital District. The specific duties of the position include:

- Engage in an active listening tour to better understand and document the challenges and opportunities facing our Healthy Stores and the customers who shop by location.

- Learn and assess the viability of incentives for Healthy Stores to ensure their sustainability in providing affordable, fresh produce and pantry goods to their neighborhood customers.
- Working with our Retail Markets Team and Marketing Team, craft a successful outreach and marketing campaign to increase the number of neighborhood residents using the Healthy Store for complete meal, healthy, and affordable shopping.
- Using The Greater Capital Region Food System Assessment maps and research, identify and help steward interventions, such as the Healthy Stores Program, in neighborhoods that have retail structure (corner stores), but lack healthy food offerings.

### **Professional Development:**

The VISTA member will participate in weekly staff meetings at Capital Roots as well as other organizational activities including volunteer and donor appreciation events, community partner networking events, and press conferences and other opportunities that arise. They will also work with other staff members to gain knowledge and experience related to other programs and operations within Capital Roots. The VISTA will participate in all organizational events and will have a role in contributing to our quarterly newsletter and working with our Marketing Coordinator on social media and other public information pieces. There may be opportunities for the VISTA to attend a local conference or other professional development events that offer topics relevant to Capital Roots work during their year of service. Capital Roots will also encourage the VISTA to engage in any of the opportunities offered by Siena College for professional development.

As a part of the ACE program, VISTA members take part in monthly team building days, attend AmeriCorps trainings, and have access to Siena's faculty to learn more about their areas of interest. VISTAs will develop skills in public speaking, career management, and social justice. We pride ourselves on being informed, caring, and intentional members of our communities and take the time to analyze our own roles in society.

### **Minimal Qualifications:**

- Must have an Associates level education or higher
- Have a growth mindset
- Authorized to work in the US
- Clean driving record
- Able to lift 40+ pounds

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### Desired Qualifications:

- Have a desire to better understand and contribute to advancing the regional food system;
- Support efforts of equity, justice, access, and availability;
- Be a comfortable and active listener;
- Possess excellent writing skills;
- Be able to make connections between and among key stakeholders;
- Communicate with care and clarity;
- Be accountable to other members of the team through punctuality,
- Be self-driven, with the ability to work independently and collectively.

### Benefits:

- Biweekly Living Allowance: \$575.40
- \$6,345.00 Education Award upon successful completion of full service term
- The VISTAs can be granted an End of Service Cash Stipend (approximately \$1,800 for a full year of service) if they choose to opt out of the Education Award
- Healthcare Benefit Options
- Relocation Travel Allowance based on mileage
- Supportive Cohort of peers
- Siena Campus Meal Plan
- Siena Gym/Library Access
- CDTA bus pass
- Opportunity to audit classes at Siena
- [Non-competitive eligibility for federal employment](#)

Note: VISTAs and VISTA Leaders do not have access to on-campus housing.

Visit us online: <https://www.siena.edu/centers-institutes/ace> and on IG: [@sienavistas](#)

To Apply please contact Roja Ebrahimi at [rebrahimi@siena.edu](mailto:rebrahimi@siena.edu).

*At Siena, diversity is an invitation to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual, as well as the cultural differences that enrich us all. Siena strives to ensure that individuals from all backgrounds and perspectives are served equitably. The diversity that students, staff and faculty bring to the College are viewed as a resource, strength and benefit to the College as a whole.*

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