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 to learn more about our organization.

Goals and Duties of The Position:

The VISTA, serving as Squash Hunger Associate, will focus on the specific duties of the position which include:

- Provide training, coordination and supervision to a corps of volunteers that help distribute and deliver fresh food to numerous FA’s around the Region
- Assist with input, management and analysis of Squash Hunger data to support the Nourish NY program
- Implement a survey tool to update our Food Assistance program listing and food needs and wants information
Communicate with local farmers and producers to expand our Nourish NY buy list and encourage increased food donations through gleanings and surplus food pickups.

**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

**Desired Qualification:**

- Good computer skills; experience with Excel and Google Docs
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Outgoing and friendly; enjoys working with a wide range of people
- Attention to detail
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.

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.