



**Title:** Cooking Matters AmeriCorps Member  
**Department:** Programs/Nutrition Education  
**Reports to:** Nutrition Education Manager

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### **Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters® AmeriCorps National Direct Program**

Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters® empowers low-income families with the skills to stretch their food budgets so their children get healthy meals at home, as part of the No Kid Hungry® campaign to end childhood hunger in America. Cooking Matters serves families across the country through hands-on, six-week cooking courses; interactive grocery store tours; and mobile, online and educational tools. Participants learn to shop smarter, use nutrition information to make healthier choices, and cook delicious, affordable meals.

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, state, and national service programs engages more than 80,000 Americans in projects around the nation each year.

Foodlink, the regional food bank located in Rochester, NY and serving 10 counties, is seeking an enthusiastic, highly-motivated individual to help manage and expand the nutrition education program. Foodlink partners with the national nonprofit Share Our Strength (strength.org) to offer Cooking Matters courses to our network of agencies. Foodlink is committed to building a hunger-free community and a sustainable regional food system by distributing food to a network of agencies and empowering individuals.

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### **Responsibilities**

The Cooking Matters AmeriCorps member will work with Foodlink Cooking Matters staff to implement effective hands-on courses and tours teaching families at risk of hunger that healthy cooking can be delicious, enjoyable-and most important-affordable. Member responsibilities and duties may include, but are not limited to:

#### *Program Coordination:*

- Work with chefs, nutrition educators and agency/site managers to implement courses and tours using Cooking Matters core curriculum and Cooking Matters at the Store curriculum.
- Complete all preparations for class including, but not limited to, assembling and transporting equipment, materials, and groceries, and preparing volunteer staff.
- Complete program evaluation and other program reporting documentation as necessary.
- Participate in actively seeking out, working with, and maintaining positive relationships with agencies serving low-income clients to host Cooking Matters courses and tours.
- Assist with the development of Cooking Matters outreach materials and handouts for Cooking Matters audience, as needed.

#### *Volunteer Management and Training:*

- Provide volunteer instructors with training and materials needed to teach courses and tours and make sure they follow procedures and course guidelines.
- Support and manage volunteer instructors during class to make sure they have all required materials and communicate key messages.
- Help with special events such as volunteer appreciation/recognition events.

#### *Administration/Miscellaneous:*

- Ensure all necessary course reporting is in order in database and network resource center.
- Submit timesheets in accordance with AmeriCorps and Share Our Strength guidelines.
- Participate in national, state and other trainings as requested – some may require travel out of state.
- Maintain a high level of working knowledge related to hunger, nutrition standards, regulations, and trends.
- Collaborate with other Foodlink departments, as necessary, to ensure high quality service to individuals within our network of agencies.

#### **TRAINING:**

Cooking Matters AmeriCorps members are part of local and national Cooking Matters teams and take part in all associated training and activities. AmeriCorps members will receive orientation training from Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters staff as well as Lead Partner Cooking Matters staff. Members will be part of a peer network of AmeriCorps members from around the nation and be a part of regular training opportunities including monthly webinars and two in-person retreats.

#### **WORKING CONDITIONS:**

AmeriCorps members will be assigned to a cubicle and they will be utilizing this space for office work. There is space for storing supplies and kitchen storage. AmeriCorps members will work week day evenings and some weekends. Hours will depend upon Cooking Matters course schedule.

Work is performed in a variety of office and kitchen settings inside and outside Foodlink. Member will use computer and phones extensively. Regularly lifts, moves and carries objects of up to 50 pounds, such as food and classroom supplies. Exposure to a variety of foods in residential, community, and industrial kitchens. In a class or tour setting, may stand and work at counters and stoves for extended periods of time. Frequently works outside normal working hours such as evenings and weekends, and will drive frequently due to work performed in the community.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- At least 18 years of age
- High school diploma, or GED
- Interest in nutrition and/or culinary arts
- Driver's license and good driving record
- Public speaking skills
- Computer skills
- Ability to balance a variety of tasks simultaneously
- Volunteer management experience preferred
- Experience working with youth and/or adults in formal and/or informal education programs
- Enrollment contingent on successful passing of criminal background search (including a FBI fingerprint-based criminal history check).

#### **TERMS and BENEFITS**

Full-time member term: 1700 hours of service within a 12-month period.

The full-time member will receive a living allowance of \$12,530, a basic health plan, training, child care (based on income eligibility), and an AmeriCorps education award of \$5,775 upon successful completion of service.

For **questions** about Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters AmeriCorps National Direct program, contact: Ellen Damaschino, National Training Manager, at [edamaschino@strength.org](mailto:edamaschino@strength.org)

***TO APPLY:***

Please submit resume and cover letter to:

**Margaret Liljedahl**

Nutrition Education Manager

Foodlink

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Only serious candidates should apply. **Only successful candidates will be contacted.**