

New Britain ROOTS  
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## **Community Partnerships & Development Assistant - AmeriCorps VISTA**

**Mission:** ROOTS is a non-profit dedicated to promoting food security in our community. We work with local farmers and healthy food advocates to make fresh, nutritious food affordable and accessible to all. Our youth and adult programs focus on enhancing urban agriculture and empowered eating practices for the betterment of our food system.

**AmeriCorps Program:** The Connecticut Food Justice VISTA Project is a partnership between non-profits throughout the state, each with one to two VISTA Members building the capacity of that organization. Together we strive for a multigenerational, racially and economically diverse group of leaders with the skills to move communities across Connecticut toward a just food system. With VISTA Member support, host sites commit to empowering their communities to have impact on food-related programs and services, and the food system in Connecticut as a whole. VISTA Members in the project will: 1. Participate in a collaborative forum for sharing best practices and curriculum among 11 project sites and 16 VISTA Members. 2. Build the capacity of each organization to empower under-represented populations 3. Create, expand and enhance the services offered by their host site by fundraising, managing volunteers, convening the community, surveying the community, enhancing awareness of food insecurity and injustice, and much more. University of Connecticut Extension, in partnership with some of the most effective and innovative nonprofit organizations in Connecticut, is coordinating the sixth year of this multi-site project beginning in August 2018.

**ROOTS VISTA Position:** ROOTS engages students at local schools through multiple programs exploring sustainable agriculture, food justice and job training. Additionally, New Britain ROOTS offers a mobile farmers' market and manages a weekly market in New Britain. The ROOTS VISTA member will focus on strengthening community partnerships, increasing parent engagement, and increasing the number of clients served through our farmers markets SNAP program. They will continue developing working relationships with healthcare agencies such as the Community Health Center and The Hospital for Central CT and hunger relief organizations including FoodShare and Friendship Center. The VISTA will be tasked with carefully documenting their work methods and data collection tools. The VISTA will assist in fundraising activities including an annual appeal, grant writing, and our annual fundraising dinner.

**To Apply:** All applicants must register with AmeriCorps and fill out the online application;

[my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=74188](https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=74188)