



Summer Internship – Position Description

ABOUT BELLINGHAM FOOD BANK

Food justice is social justice! We at Bellingham Food Bank envision a community with a thriving food system where everyone has equitable access to the food they need and want. We strive to fight food insecurity within Whatcom County and beyond. We reduce hunger by creating access to high quality, desirable food and other essentials, building a responsive regional hunger relief network, and disrupting racism, because of its historical and structural connection to hunger and poverty. Volunteers and interns are central and essential to our mission; this work would not be possible without the generous donation of time from our community.

This is an immersive internship, meant to facilitate learning in a multifaceted approach. The intern will partake in the daily activities that are required to distribute food to 5000+ families each week, using that experience to deepen their understanding of the organization and food insecurity. We value the perspective of interns as those of us who are in this work long-term can have difficulty seeing new possibilities. We hope you find this experience enriching, knowing we are only one small part of food access across the nation and in the world.

SCHEDULE:

Part time:

10-15 Hours, split between 3-4 days, start time 9:00 or 10:00, end time between 12:00 and 2:00. Fridays are highly desired, other days are somewhat flexible depending on the student's schedule. We run operations 5 days a week, Monday through Friday.

- OR -

Full time:

37-40 hours, Monday-Friday. 8-4 or 9-5 depending on availability..

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

We are seeking interns who are willing to assume a variety of responsibilities. Most jobs here at the food bank, for staff and volunteers alike, entail moving food around and assisting clients as needed. Much of the work is not glamorous, but is essential to our operation and to providing direct service to 4,000+ households a week. This is an unpaid position, and we will happily work with you to meet your educational goals and credit requirements. There is ample opportunity for learning about food insecurity; its causes, effects and responses. Duties include and are not limited to:

- Support BFB staff in sorting and organizing Trader Joe's food donations
- Assist with activities related to food distribution—help with stocking shelves prior to opening and during service, setting up volunteers for bulk-bagging, general customer service
- Actively seek and display free resources for the benefit of the community
- Assist clients in signing up for our Drive Through program over the phone
- Manage garden donations on a regular basis, processing them to be fit for distribution
- Participate in occasional gleans to assist harvesting food for our distributions

Send inquiries to: Eve Rivera, Operations Specialist ever@bellinghamfoodbank.org



- Thursdays/Fridays: Act as home delivery driver, transporting food boxes to recipients in town or in the county
- Attend regular meetings with Intern Coordinator, Operations Manager, and other staff as needed to check in on goals and gain organizational knowledge
- Collaborate with Intern Coordinator and others for a quarterly project related to client voice and/or resources

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- ability to repeatedly lift up to 50 pounds throughout a 4-8 hour shift
- ability to stand, twist, bend, and move quickly throughout a 4-8 hour shift
- excited to work as part of a fast-paced team, communicate effectively, and to take initiative appropriately
- interest in the foundational causes of food insecurity in Whatcom county and nationwide
- drivers license, proof of insurance, willing to have background check run (desired)
- vehicle which can fit at least 10 BFB pre-packed food boxes for deliveries (desired)
- Fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Spanish/Russian/Ukrainian speakers or learners are highly desirable

Internship learning objectives:

After completion of the internship at Bellingham Food Bank, interns will be able to:

- Identify BFB's main food sources; including purchases, donations, agricultural contracts and gleanings, and more.
- Identify BFB's main funding sources.
- Detail the scope of our food budget for 2024.
- Explain the core causes and contributors to food insecurity in Whatcom County and across the country.
- Name the mission, vision, and values of Bellingham Food Bank.
- Explain how we distribute food and how our equity lens affects this distribution.

This learning will be accomplished through:

- Conversations with the operations staff and volunteers on the distribution floor.
- Meetings with the Intern Coordinator and the Operations Manager, and other staff as desired.
- Direct interaction with users of the Bellingham Food Bank.
- Helping facilitate a conversation table to understand community thoughts and needs.
- Suggested readings from our small library to incorporate hands-on learning with a broader picture of food insecurity nationwide.