



POSITION AVAILABLE: GLEANING ASSISTANT

ABOUT THE POSITION: This position is a physically active and hands-on role which entails working in a highly collaborative and dynamic outdoor environment. A person in this role supports the Gleaning Coordinator and creates a positive volunteer experience during gleaning activities.

ABOUT YOU: We seek individuals who understand that food is a fundamental human right and who want to join us as we both provide food to our community and also work to undo the systems that have led to the need for food banks.

There is no required level of education or work experience specified because we believe that there are many lived experiences that are at least as relevant to this work as a university degree or employment history.

ABOUT BELLINGHAM FOOD BANK: Bellingham Food Bank is Whatcom County's largest hunger relief organization. We provide free groceries in a dignified setting to 1 in 5 Whatcom County households annually. Bellingham Food Bank is committed to becoming an anti-racist organization.

VISION

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.

MISSION

We reduce hunger by creating access to high quality, desirable food and other essentials, building a responsive regional hunger relief network, disrupting racism, because of its historical and structural connection to hunger and poverty.

VALUES

Quality & Choice: We offer a variety of high-quality foods, culturally relevant foods, and other essentials. We strive to create a welcoming, respectful, and dignified experience.

Justice & Equity: We believe hunger, poverty, and systemic racism are inextricably linked. Food justice is social justice.

Inclusion & Access: We actively work to remove barriers to food and essentials and to offer what is familiar and valued by our diverse community.

Responsiveness & Innovation: We listen, experiment, learn, and adjust as we seek ways to deepen our impact on both immediate needs and the root causes of hunger.

Job Description: Gleaning Assistant

This position serves as an assistant to help the Gleaning Coordinator with harvest, wash, transportation, and storage of gleaned produce from farms and home orchards in Whatcom County, as well as management of volunteers during harvest activities. Common gleans will include root crop harvests/washing, blueberry harvests/packaging, large fruit tree gleans, and other various vegetable gleans. This position also includes

gleaning at the Saturday Bellingham Farmers Market, alongside the coordinator and as the lead.

This position will require *up to* 12 hours per week, with a possibility of up to 20 hours during peak season. It is possible that this position will finish before mid-October or that weekly hours may be less than 12, dependent on weather, available crops, etc. The Gleaning Assistant must be available to work two Saturdays per month, dates to be determined with the Gleaning Coordinator.

Status: Temporary/non-exempt. **Wage:** \$21.50/hr. **Potential start date:** July 21st thru mid-October, crop-dependent

Skills & Qualifications

- WA State Driver's License with acceptable record
- Complete forklift and box truck training program at Bellingham Food Bank
- Ability to work closely with and support volunteers of all abilities
- Good communication, interpersonal and time management skills
- Ability to repeatedly lift up to 50lbs onto a harvest vehicle
- Ability to climb and harvest fruit from a 10-foot ladder
- Farm experience is helpful but not required

Work Environment

Reports to the Gleaning Coordinator. The work environment includes farms, orchards, backyard fruit trees, warehouses, and the Bellingham Food Bank office. The coordinator will need to walk, stand, lift, and balance.

Transportation to harvest sites will be in Bellingham Food Bank vehicles, or in personal vehicle with mileage reimbursement.

To Apply

Email cover letter and resume to info@bellinghamfoodbank.org, subject "Gleaning Assistant". Preferred application date: July 7, 2025. NO phone calls, please. More information at bellinghamfoodbank.org. Please do not send paper copies of any documents.

Disclaimer: This job description is not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required for this position. All Bellingham Food Bank employees may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities from time to time, as to meet the ongoing needs of the organization.

We strongly support equal employment opportunity for all staff members, as articulated by federal, state, and local laws. Alternatives to Hunger actively seeks to recruit individuals without regard to race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, or age. Particularly, Alternatives to Hunger and all its staff members will comply with the AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) OF 1990, PUBLIC LAW 101-336, also referred to as the "ADA" 28 CFR Part 35, which provides comprehensive civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications. Our equal employment opportunity philosophy applies to all aspects of employment, including recruitment, training, promotion, transfer, job benefits, pay, and dismissal.