



UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education

Nourish Iowa VISTA

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

The goals of this project are to help improve the capacity of the Nourish Iowa project and to remove barriers for access to land to grow food for consumption. We hope to expand technical assistance to start food and farm enterprises while building financial stability and rootedness in the region for newcomers, refugees, and low income, low access residents.



Accomplishments

- Identified 10 potential community garden locations and created best suitability maps
- Successful recruitment of all open positions
- Increased social media reach on Facebook and Instagram by developing a social media strategy for the program
- Maintaining partnerships with pre-existing incubator farms and community gardens



UNI Local Food Program

Check out the CEEE webpage at UNI for the Local Food Program and all the great work our members support.



Partnerships & Collaborations

Black Hawk County Public Health, Feed Iowa First, World Grace Project, CVRFFN, Corinthian Baptist Church, Grundy Community Preschool and Childcare, Hornbill's, New Garden, Esty African Market, Green Iowa AmeriCorps, Regional Food Systems Working Group, and Backyard Abundance.

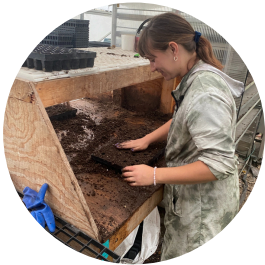


Stories from Service

“My role is to help build capacity for land access and food sovereignty to historically underprivileged communities in Waterloo. Through the partnership of UNI’s Local Food Program, Black Hawk County Public Health, and Waterloo Leisure Services, our community established its first successful community garden in Highland Park this past spring. I’ve spent some time discussing improvements for the next growing season and how we can use the success story of the Highland Garden to gain support for the establishment of future gardens in parks.”

Eden Rowland , 2023-2024 VISTA

Member Spotlights



Edén Rowland

Edén began her service in August of 2023 as the Community Garden and Farm Coordinator. Edén has served three years with AmeriCorps, beginning in Green Iowa. She has a passion for gardening, and has been active in the community for 3 years.

Lauren Luerkens

Lauren began her service term in August of 2023 as the VISTA Leader. She has served two previous terms with Green Iowa and Nourish Iowa. As a graduate of the University of Iowa in Environmental Planning and Policy, she hopes to continue her professional career finding solutions to climate change.



About the Host Site

The Center for Energy and Environmental Education is located in Cedar Falls and offers technical assistance, educational programs, and leadership in energy conservation, renewable energy, environmental conservation, and community-based agriculture.



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www.ceee.uni.edu/nourish-iowa-vista