

The goal of this project is to use qualitative and quantitative data to develop a video series for education, technical assistance, and program promotion to share deeper stories from people impacted by Iowa Valley's work. In addition, the VISTA will serve on a communications team for the USDA Local Food Purchasing Assistance.



Accomplishments

- Assisted in the registration and approval of over 150 producers for the Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program
- Provided technical assistance to new or beginning farmers, securing \$3,500 in grant opportunities for equipment purchases
- Centered theories on adult learning in cultural and linguistic diverse contexts while developing resources and training for communities served by IVRC&D



Honoring our Hearty Harvests

Scan the QR code to check out Marianna's Hearty Harvests in Iowa: A Photovoice Project!



Partnerships & Collaborations

Feed Iowa First, United We March Forward, Englert Theatre, and Grow Pamoja



Stories from Service

“So far throughout my VISTA service, I have been able to take part in and see the successes of several IVRCD projects. Perhaps the most exciting part of my service involved my time as a volunteer and volunteer recruiter/manager for the Grow Johnson County program, which was able to distribute over 30,000 pounds of fresh local food to community partners for the 2022 year. Additionally, it has been incredibly profound knowing that I had a part in the Iowa LFPA program roll out and its data management during Phase 1.”

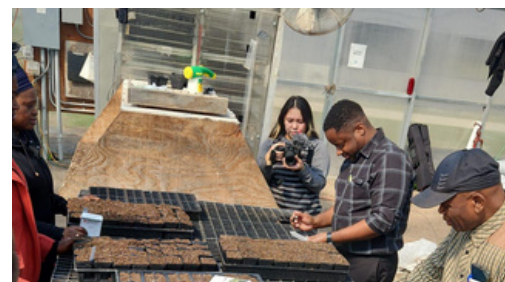
Marianna Cota, 2022-2024 VISTA

Member Spotlights



Marianna Cota, MPH

Marianna has served two terms with Nourish Iowa, with her first year in the role of Local Food System Development Coordinator and transitioning to the Communications Project Manager. She has her Masters of Public Health in Community and Behavioral Health from the University of Iowa.



About the Host Site

Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development is a non profit organization located in Amana, Iowa. Iowa Valley RC&D trains and supports farmers, builds local food infrastructure, generates new innovative markets, improves access of locally grown foods, and models and communicates the positive impact of a future food system that nourishes people and place.



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