Summary:
The New Hampshire Food Bank serves the state of New Hampshire through food distribution and unique outreach programs which provide sustainable avenues to ending hunger. Our food distribution work involves partnering with more than 400 agencies across the state such as food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, children’s programs, senior centers and more. Through the department, Recipe for Success, our innovative outreach programs are designed to fight the root causes of hunger by empowering people to learn new skills, enabling them to become more self-sufficient and improve their quality of life. Programs include Share Our Strength’s Cooking Matters®, the NH Nutrition Incentives Network, a culinary job training program, SNAP outreach, and a production garden.

As part of the national No Kid Hungry campaign working to end childhood hunger in America, Cooking Matters empowers low-income families to stretch their food budgets so their children get healthy meals at home. Participants learn to shop smarter, use nutrition information to make healthier choices, and cook delicious, affordable meals. Cooking Matters courses and tours equip families with the skills they need to stretch their food dollars and maximize the benefits they receive through public nutrition programs like SNAP (food stamps) and WIC (Women, Infants and Children).

The NH Sustainable Food Access Fellow will be asked to work with Cooking Matters to develop and execute assessments of how to better connect potential participants to the programs. The goal of conducting these statewide assessments is to help the NH Food Bank reach more people with the resources available.

Deliverables:
- Utilize community engagement tools to determine best outreach and engagement techniques for potential participant populations.
- Coordinate and execute facilitated dialogue sessions in multiple counties.
- Determine limiting and driving factors in program participation.
- Remodel best practices for adult and family participant recruitment in respective counties including best scheduling methods.

Impact:

This project will bring a participant perspective to Cooking Matters reach and create a meaningful voice for the community of potential Cooking Matters participants.
The fellow will hear from past graduates and potential participants, bringing in the community to participate in the process which will then help reach families needing to stretch their food dollar in a healthy way. New ideas to reach participants where they are will increase the impact across the state by empowering families with the knowledge on how to cook healthy meals on a budget and create a healthier future as we work towards the goal of No Kid Hungry. These findings from the community and the methods of facilitated community dialogues could then be shared to Cooking Matters programs nationwide.

**Location:** New Hampshire Food Bank, Manchester, NH  
**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June 4-August 17, 2018  
**Compensation:** $6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Deep commitment to addressing the problems of hunger and poverty in the community.
- Experience working with low-income populations beneficial.
- Background and experience with survey research methods.
- Exceptional interpersonal communication skills.
- Basic knowledge of techniques for program development and evaluation.
- Knowledge of what hunger in America looks like.
- A strong desire to work with limited resource audiences.

**UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:**
Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

**Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation:**
This fellow will receive supervision from Alexis Dwyer, Cooking Matters NH Coordinator out of the NH Food Bank, as well as mentoring and extensive professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in the following MANDATORY events:
- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 29-31. Lodging and meals will be provided. A limited number of travel scholarships will be available to assist with transportation to Durham.
- Weekly webinars during the course of the 10-week fellowship.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, July 12. Travel support provided.
- Final project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, August 10. Travel support provided.

**Apply by February 14** at [www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows).