Organization Information
DC Central Kitchen was founded in 1989 as the first-ever ‘community kitchen.’ Twenty-six years ago, we pioneered a model that rescued otherwise wasted food from multiple sources, aggregated it at a central kitchen facility, and used those misfit ingredients to prepare balanced meals that could be delivered to homeless shelters and other front-line agencies. Most importantly, we developed an approach designed to shorten our city’s line of hungry people by recruiting our meal recipients to enroll in our Culinary Job Training program. Through this rigorous fourteen-week program, formerly homeless, addicted, or incarcerated adults learn culinary skills and earn recognized certifications while preparing healthy meals for agencies that once served them. In the past two years, we have produced 198 culinary graduates with a 90% job placement rate. Our training program was profiled last year by the PBS NewsHour, ABC World News, National Journal, Daily Signal, and the US Chamber of Commerce. Since 1996, we have been successful social entrepreneurs, hiring many of our own culinary graduates to work for us full-time, earning living wages while powering our revenue-generating ventures, which include a corporate catering outfit, a nationally acclaimed school food program that serves locally sourced meals 11 low-income DC schools, and the first nonprofit corner store delivery program. Our innovative solutions to food deserts won the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine’s Golden Carrot Grand Prize and the national Social Innovation Challenge, along with recognition by the Atlantic, the Chronicle of Philanthropy, the Huffington Post, and National Public Radio. And this year, the founder of the Social Enterprise World Forum named DCCK “absolutely one of the best social enterprises in the world.”

Strategic Partnerships VISTA
The 2016-2017 AmeriCorps VISTA will increase DCCK’s sustainability and community impact by advancing strategic partnerships across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. This unique role will require expert analytical, writing, and organizational skills as a member of DCCK’s Development team. The VISTA’s primary responsibilities will include:

Foundation and Grant Partnerships: develop new funding streams through researching and crafting grant proposals to foundations, corporations, and government agencies; research best practices of partner and peer nonprofit organizations to inform DCCK’s programs;

Policy and Government Relations: research local and federal policy related to workforce development and healthy food access, develop policy one-pagers for internal and external stakeholders;

Corporate and Community Outreach: build and strengthen nonprofit/corporate partnerships, specifically within the culinary industry; develop robust knowledge management system leveraging Salesforce.

The ideal Strategic Partnerships VISTA will seek to:

- Develop advanced skills in policy research, grant writing, and nonprofit/for-profit partnerships;
- Work on a dynamic and fast-paced team of fundraising, evaluation, and communication professionals;
- Gain experience with technology systems including Salesforce donor database, Microsoft’s cloud-based file system SharePoint, and Apricot performance management database;
- Build relationships with nonprofit, government, and business professionals in Washington, DC;
- Leverage DCCK’s network to attend professional development workshops, nonprofit trainings, and local conferences;
- Support an innovative social enterprise working to advance economic opportunity and healthy food access in Washington, DC.