Evaluating and Strengthening Grow & Give Community Engagement

Developed in response to surging food insecurity during 2020, Grow & Give (<https://growgive.extension.colostate.edu>) was launched to create a statewide network of gardeners, Extension Agents, and organizations who could help address hunger in their communities. Now in its third year, Grow & Give has increased access to nutritious fruits and vegetables in counties throughout Colorado, and it has increased the social connectedness that is integral to thriving and resilient communities. As we progressed, we have identified the need to better engage certain stakeholders and collect important program evaluation data. Working as a team with Dr. Megan Mueller, the Grow & Give Steering Committee, and program stakeholders, the intern will help fill these gaps by developing more effective and efficient data collection tools and conducting program assessments. Our intern will work both remotely and in-person at locations around the state (travel stipend provided). The intern will use data collection and management tools commonly used in Extension program evaluation (e.g., Qualtrics and Excel). The intern will gain valuable experience in collecting quantitative and qualitative program evaluation data from community organizations during site visits and stakeholder interviews. By working with a diverse team of public health, Extension, and community-based professionals, the intern will learn the methods and challenges of developing, implementing, and evaluating a statewide program that has direct public health outcomes. The Grow & Give Steering Committee includes Katie Dunker, Amy Lentz, John Murgel, Chelsea Didinger, Denyse Schrenker, Cassey Anderson, Kristen Anderson, and Amanda McQuade.