



Organization Name:

The Tucson Family Food Project

Organization Background:

Since 2021, The Tucson Family Food Project (TTFFP), a Tucson-based 501(c)(3) organization, has provided direct aid, life skills development, education in cooking and nutrition and confidence-building to children and families in Tucson, Arizona. In the 2024-2025 school year, we will deliver over 9,500 nutritious meals, ready to cook at home, accompanied by simple cooking instructions and a companion YouTube video each week. This truly one-of-a-kind model empowers children, schools and families to break the cycle of food insecurity. As we grow our program, we want to begin collecting data to prove that our program works and is an effective way to address childhood food insecurity.

Website: www.TTFFP.org

Internship Project Title

Data Collection and Efficacy Evaluation

Project Description:

By understanding and engaging with those we serve, TTFFP aims to create sustainable, culturally sensitive, and practical solutions that address both immediate food needs and the broader systemic issues contributing to food insecurity. As part of our effort to evaluate the efficacy of our program, we want to implement responsive feedback mechanisms so that we can track the benefits of the program, as well as student engagement and overall satisfaction.

We are hearing incredible results about the program directly from teachers in the schools we serve, the students themselves and their parents. However, we now want to begin gathering hard data that we can use to show the public, grant funders, and other nonprofit foundations that our program yields real results.

Working with The University of Arizona we want to establish a longitudinal study, with control groups, documenting the multiplicity and magnitude of impacts of our program on the children, parents and educators we serve.

Data to be collected includes:

- *Grades*
- *Attendance*
- *Test scores*
- *Overall health*
- *Self confidence*
- *Regularity of eating at home*
- *Consumption of ultra processed foods vs whole foods*
- *Home dynamics*

Key responsibilities will include (but are not limited to):

- *Collecting data on food insecurity through surveys and interviews.*
- *Organizing and analyzing data to identify trends or gaps in service.*
- *Assisting in preparation of reports and presentations to support funding or outreach initiatives.*
- *Supporting program evaluation and impact assessment efforts.*

This data collection effort will be ongoing, with results evaluated by the executive director on a semester by semester basis.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply).

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ ☐ Health Disparities | ☐ ☐ Tobacco Use |
| ☐ ☐ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☐ ☐ Collaborations with
Community | ☐ ☐ Immunization |
| ☐ ☐ Collaborations with University | ☐ ☐ Infectious Disease |
| ☒ ☐ Community health service | ☐ ☐ Oral Health |
| ☐ ☐ Physical Activity | ☒ ☐ Evaluation |
| ☐ ☐ Substance Abuse | ☒ ☐ Policy Development |
| ☐ ☐ Mental Health | ☒ ☐ Program Planning |
| ☐ ☐ Access to care | ☒ ☐ Data Analysis |
| ☒ ☐ Nutrition | ☐ ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter
text. |
| ☐ ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health | |
| ☐ ☐ Environmental Health | |
| ☐ ☐ Maternal/Infant Health | |

When: When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.

- ☐ ☐ Fall Semester
- ☐ ☐ Spring Semester
- ☐ ☐ Summer Term
- ☒ ☐ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐ ☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: 2307 N Catalina Ave. Tucson, AZ 85712

Address where Student will work (if different from above): *Click or tap here to enter text.*

☐ *Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.*

Student Characteristics:

The ideal candidate should be familiar with data collection methodologies such as surveys, interviews, or observational data, as well as have knowledge of data entry and organization tools (e.g., Excel, Google Sheets, or data management platforms).

Additionally, the ideal candidate should have a genuine interest in addressing childhood food insecurity and supporting underserved communities with sensitivity to the issues affecting food-insecure families, as well as a commitment to ethical data practices.

This candidate should have a strong attention to detail, strong communication skills, be self-motivated, adaptable, and should also embody a collaborative spirit and be eager to learn and contribute meaningfully to the organization's goals.

Level of Expertise Needed: *Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?*

Undergraduate: The internship for undergraduates should provide an experience that allows students to incorporate classroom learning into public health practice.

Graduate: Applied experiences for graduate students should require application of advanced knowledge and skills to the solution of health problems and the production of at least two agency-based deliverables.

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

☐ ☐ MPH

☐ ☐ Undergraduate

☒ ☐ Either

Supervision

Students will work directly with Steven Cota-Robles, the Founder and Executive Director of The Tucson Family Food Project. Prior to founding TTFFP, Executive Director Steven Cota-Robles, a fourth-generation Tucsonan, worked for approximately 15 years with Whole Food Market. With his experience in the food service industry, as well as restaurant management, Steven has become a subject matter expert in buying, inventory management, financial accountability, coordination of complex weekly schedules and interpersonal communication.

TTFFP was started in 2021 when Steven quit his job and sold his house to start a nonprofit dedicated to fighting childhood food insecurity. When TTFFP first started in the middle of the 2021-2022 school year, Steven was making 20 meal kits per week out of his own home kitchen. For the 2022-2023 school year, TTFFP expanded the number of schools served and moved into commercial-grade kitchen space provided by a local church and added a team of volunteers to prepare the meal kits. We produced over 8,250 meal kits during the 2023-2024 school year, serving approximately 225 students and families every week. For the 2024- 2025 school year, we are currently serving 255 students and families every week and are on pace to produce over 9,500 meal kits. Taking into account that our meal kits feed at least four people per week, we are on pace to produce 36,000 servings this year alone.

Compensation/Benefits/Professional Development

This is an unpaid internship

Application Contact Information

Students should apply by emailing their resume and cover letter to steven@ttffp.org, along with a short explanation of why they're applying, and why they want to join our mission.