



Urban Agriculture Coordinator

Status: Part-time, 30 hours a week, for two years September 1st, 2021 - August 31st 2023/
Compensation based on experience

Reports to: Agriculture Programs Director

Job Description:

In partnership with program partners, the Urban Agriculture Coordinator position will manage a new urban agriculture program and maintain multiple community gardens for the Syracuse Refugee Agricultural Program (SyRAP). SyRAP is a training program for refugees who are interested in starting their own farming business or acquiring farmland. Farmers go through three years of ENL, agriculture, gardening, marketing, and business training before they lease or buy land on their own. The new Urban Agriculture Program will assist people in the refugee community who are interested in starting their own gardens near their home, but do not have the land/space to do so. This individual will be an employee of Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE) and this hands-on position will report to and work with the Agriculture Programs Director and RISE Executive Director. It is anticipated that this position will start in October of 2021.

This is a new position at RISE who has a partnership with Salt City Harvest Farm, Matthew 25 Farm, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The successful candidate should have the ability to work independently, prioritize tasks, have experience working with people from other cultures, anticipate issues, experience gardening, be flexible, open-minded, and develop solutions. The Urban Agriculture Coordinator will be required to work with a wide variety of individuals and organizations, including farmers from multiple countries, other farms, partners, and neighbors to the community gardens. The successful candidate must have a sincere interest in food justice, working with different cultures, decreasing food insecurity, and increasing self-sustainability.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Locate empty lots for garden use
- Build and maintain 2-4 community gardens
- Communicate and maintain relationships with neighbors of the community gardens
- Maintain existing raised beds and sheds
- Maintain and operate equipment such as hand tools, and weed whackers
- Amend soil as needed due to high levels of metal
- Weed and pick up litter as needed
- Build relationships with refugee farmers in SyRAP

- Assist refugee gardeners in establishing their own community gardens near their apartments or houses
- Supervise volunteers as needed
- Travel required from one garden to another on the northside of Syracuse
- Some evenings and weekends may be required depending on gardener and volunteers availability
- Other duties as assigned by the Agriculture Programs Director and RISE Executive Director

Education and Experience

Qualifications:

- Self-directed individual with the ability to work independently, with minimal supervision, as well as collaborate with others in a team setting
- Gardening/Farming experience
- Outstanding leadership ability and communication skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Ability to be flexible, solve problems as needed, and manage competing priorities
- Experience with communicating with a diverse group of individuals
- Deep passion and commitment to connecting both marginalized and privileged communities to sustainable agriculture
- Physically able to drive, bend, stand, walk, and pull for long periods of time and lift-up to 50lbs
- Proficiency with basic software and technology including MS Word, Excel, Google Drive, Google Sheets
- Good writing skills to be able to find and write small community grants

Preferred Qualifications:

- Ability to speak and understand another language
- International travel experience
- Experience with and passion for community and personal development

Education

- High School Diploma or equivalent, and 2-4 years of experience working/volunteering at a community garden

Application Instructions:

Please send a cover letter, resume/CV and contact information to bcolebrook@syracuserise.org by Sept. 10th, 2021.

RISE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating and promoting self-sufficiency through employment, education, social support and economic independence for members of the refugee and immigrant communities in Onondaga County, NY.

RISE is committed to providing equal opportunity employment opportunities to candidates and employees without regard to race, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin of citizenship. RISE encourages women and people of color to apply for employment opportunities.