



Grassroots Gardens of Western New York Policy Fellow

ABOUT THE POSITION: The Policy Fellow will be placed at Grassroots Gardens of Western New York to assist them in advancing food and environmental justice policy and practices as part of their response to COVID19 and food insecurity in Buffalo.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Advocacy:

- Work with Executive Director to develop and implement public policy campaigns related to urban agriculture and land justice focused on the growth of the Grassroots Gardens Land Trust, climate justice, as well as equitable access for impacted communities to land and water for urban agriculture
- Represent Grassroots Gardens WNY at a variety of community coalitions including the Good Food Buffalo Coalition, the Greater Buffalo Urban Growers, the WNY Regional Advisory Council on Food Systems, among others, and with local government officials in relation to advancing the permanent protection and conservation of the city's community gardens.
- Co-facilitate the Vacant Lot Reuse Working Group after an onboarding period to advance a comprehensive vacant lot reuse policy in the City of Buffalo
- Support and advance policy requests for Buffalo Freedom Gardens, a residential gardening program in BIPOC communities that was built as a response to COVID19 and food inequities
- Track legislation at the local and state levels related to vacant lot reuse, urban agriculture and community revitalization and climate justice

Public Education

- Lead educational efforts for Safe Roots, a multilingual public awareness campaign on safe urban growing practices
- Create fact sheets and calls to action related to our public advocacy campaigns, including the growth of the GGWNY Land Trust, our Gardening for All initiative, Safe Roots, and equitable land and water access for community gardeners from impacted communities.
- Educate and engage Grassroots' community gardeners, volunteers, and partners about legislation and public policy that impacts them
- Educate key stakeholders, including policymakers, on the needs of our impacted community members related to food equity, equitable land and water access, access to nature, and climate justice.

- Write op-eds and other articles to support public awareness of policies that affect community gardeners

Organizational Development

- Conduct an internal policy audit to ensure Grassroots Gardens maintains its highest standards and practices related to our accreditation as a land trust
- Work closely with the Executive Director to determine the role of Grassroots Gardens in the fight for climate justice and help to develop a plan of action
- Participate in strategic planning with the staff and Board of Directors to set a new strategic plan now that the agency is an accredited land trust
- Inform and educate agency leadership on new legislative and policy actions
- Other job tasks as assigned including support for community outreach, events and annual resource distribution

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES: To be successful in this position, you will need to be competent in:

- Communicating effectively; excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Building collaborative relationships
- Valuing equity, inclusion, and justice
- Understanding environmental and food justice issues disproportionately affecting BIPOC communities, people with disabilities, and working-class people in Buffalo, New York

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in public policy administration, public health, social sciences, environmental sciences, or equivalent.
- Demonstrated work experience or community organizing related to environmental justice or food insecurity.
- Understanding of governmental policies and regional policy landscape relevant to environmental issues and food justice

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Must pass Erie County background check
- Comfort with flexible work environment: this position is expected to be a mix of on-site work, some work in community gardens or attending community meetings, some remote work. Full-time (40 hours/week, Monday-Friday). Weekend hours may be required in some cases. In those instances, flexing time during the week will be permitted.

Operating Principles and Demonstrated Behaviors:

Ability to demonstrate, understand and apply our organizational values through behaviors and actions. These values are expected of all employees in all roles. All applicants (internal and external) must evidence their attitudes/behaviors as part of the application process:

- Equity & Justice
- Community Leadership
- Fostering Connections/Collaboration

- Land and Community Stewardship
- Restorative Practices

All applicants must first apply to the NYS Public Health Corps here:
<https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Public-Health-Corps-Fellowship-Application>

Resumes can also be directed to Jeanette Koncikowski at director@grassrootsgardens.org. We seek to begin the fellowship in early June 2022 for a one-year placement.