



Grassroots Gardens of Western New York Therapeutic Gardening Fellow

ABOUT THE POSITION: CCSI is contracted by the Erie County Health Department to provide program management services, including specialized staffing. Fellows will support Erie County's COVID-19 response in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This position will be placed at Grassroots Gardens of Western New York to support their therapeutic gardening program as part of their response to the community impact of COVID19 in Buffalo. [NOTE: Position is funded by a New York State grant that will end in 1-2 years.]

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Program Coordination:

- Work with Executive Director and Program Manager to continue to grow and develop programming related to therapeutic gardening and the healing power of nature within Grassroots' urban community garden network
- Co-lead the monthly Therapeutic Community Gardening Task Force
- Grow our Grief in the Gardens programming to support community grief related to losses from COVID19, racial injustice and community violence
- Collaborate with local stakeholders (gardeners, practitioners, nonprofit partners) on the development of therapeutic gardens and related community programming
- Represent the organization at related community events and meeting
- Assist the Executive Director and Program Manager in implementing grant-funded projects to build the Grassroots' network of therapeutic gardens
- Attend community outreach events as requested and support distribution of resources across our network

Clinical Support:

- Rotate through any of the 8 therapeutic gardens in the Grassroots' network and support onsite programming in therapeutic horticulture to reduce community stress and increase public health
- Co-facilitate They That Sow in Tears, an innovative workshop on gardening through grief
- Provide clinical support and referrals to program participants in our Gardening Through Grief workshops

Education:

- Create social media and educational resources on therapeutic gardening

- Educate and engage Grassroots' community gardeners and volunteers about therapeutic gardening and the need for equitable access to green space
- Educate key stakeholders, including policymakers, on the needs of our impacted community members related to equitable access to nature and the healing characteristics of gardening
- Give presentations to community partners on therapeutic gardening

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

- Trauma-informed care
- Social work skills and community advocacy
- 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 Master's degree in social work, counseling or related field.
- Demonstrated work experience or community organizing related to environmental justice or food insecurity a plus.

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 with a cover letter and 3 references 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.