



Black Church

BALTIMORE

EST. 2015

FOOD SECURITY NETWORK

FARM MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION

BCFSN Mission

The Black Church Food Security Network supports economically-abandoned Black communities through our Holy Ground initiative by partnering with Black Churches in their own neighborhoods to establish or expand gardens and urban farms on church-owned land; and through our Soil to Sanctuary program by partnering with primarily Black farmers and food providers to coordinate pop-up farm stands at churches on days and times when congregations meet.

BCFSN Vision

We envision Black communities that are self-reliant and interdependent for their fresh and preserved agricultural products from flora and fauna, and for their agricultural knowledge. We believe that personal and community liberation are inseparable and require multi-layered work through various systems; we see agriculture as fundamental to human community in contemporary society, and thus we choose to focus on this particular ecosystem, as a means towards a liberated future.

Job Overview

We seek a seasonally full-time Farm Manager to oversee and provide technical assistance to a small but growing network of church gardens in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. In partnership with local church members, student groups, and civic organizations, the BCFSN Farm Manager will develop and manage all aspects of the Black Church Food Security Network's gardens and urban farm partnerships including but not limited to:

- Growing organic vegetables, fruits and herbs (in some gardens the FM's role will be as expert assistant; in other gardens, the FM will be the actual grower)
- Irrigation, tillage, fertilization, cultivation, planting, crop maintenance and harvesting a wide variety of locationally and culturally-appropriate crops
- Assisting churches to identify and sell in local markets and on-site
- Managing farm interns and volunteers
- Speaking to church and public groups that visit the farms for educational days

This position requires strong practical knowledge and skills, agriculture and farm management, and a passionate commitment to providing specific foods for improved public health and community empowerment. The manager has primary responsibility for the planning, coordination and implementation of all work and activities at our garden sites.

(410) 435-0851

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Key Requirements

- Supervision of church volunteers and farm interns (patiently and respectfully)
- Coordination with BCFSN staff and its advisory team, including periodic board reports
- Produce annual field plans
- Maintain church garden and urban farm infrastructure and landscape with the help of interns and volunteers Cooperate with community partners
- Order seeds and acquire materials
- Planning and implementation of weekly planting schedule
- Insect and weed control, fertility monitoring, and general field observation
- Infrastructure planning, creation, and maintenance
- Irrigation planning and implementation
- Soil-building program including composting as appropriate
- Planning of weekly harvest schedule, plus harvesting, marketing, and delivering
- Assist with marketing and outreach efforts of BCFSN
- Participate in planning for long-term farm development
- Coordinate produce needs with culinary, market and educational programs
- Ability to work in the field, outdoor classroom, and office, including hard repetitive physical work in all weather
- Some evening or special event hours may be required
- Current driver's license and a clean driving record
- Comfortable driving a cube truck and operating farm equipment
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Terms of Employment

Position starts immediately (May 2017) at approximately 40 hours/week for the growing season, and is guaranteed for six months; future funding is grant-dependent. Salary will be based on experience (minimum two years of farm management desired); produce from the gardens will be available for personal consumption. Benefits and overtime are not available with this position. Position is subject to a 30- and 90-day review.

Applications require

Agricultural resumé, with minimum two years experience preferred
At least two excellent references
Cover letter introducing yourself and your experience

**Submit your application materials no later than Friday, May 19, to:
pastor@blackchurchfoodsecurity.net**

For more information about Black Church Food Security Network, please visit our website at <http://www.blackchurchfoodsecurity.net>

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