

Job Opening: Temporary Farm to Preschool Assistant

This part-time, temporary position will be housed within the Nutrition Education Program of the Healthy Eating Unit in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Tobacco Control. The Bureau spearheads programs and initiatives to reduce the burden of chronic diseases and to address the underlying risk factors that lead to them, such as poor nutrition, physical inactivity and tobacco use. The Bureau promotes healthful environment and systems changes in the food and physical environment and develops programs that promote physical activity, healthy eating and smoking cessation. The Bureau also develops innovative strategies to convey critical health messages to the public.

The goal of the Farm to Preschool program is to increase consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables among children in child care centers and their families. This is achieved by connecting preschools to nearby farmers' markets and food box sites, providing nutrition education to children and families to enhance interest in locally-grown produce, promoting and supporting institutional purchase of locally-grown food for center menus, and providing training, tools, and resources for center staff to implement gardening lessons in the classroom.

The Farm to Preschool Assistant reports to the Farm to Preschool Coordinator and will work part-time to assist child care centers with Farm to Preschool participation. The Farm to Preschool Assistant will be responsible for marketing the program, overseeing gardening activities, and providing general support for all program activities. The Farm to Preschool Assistant will work approximately 21 hours per week (Monday through Friday only) from March to late September 2016, with a possibility to extend through November. Occasional work past 5pm may be required.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Conduct program marketing and promotional activities at participating child care centers, which include attending parent meetings and being involved in health and wellness initiatives.
- Work with child care centers to develop and implement gardening plans based on approved curriculum.
- Provide training and technical assistance to child care center staff on Farm to Preschool programming, including gardening.
- Assist with program evaluation activities including data collection and data entry.
- Collect and maintain documentation of program activities.
- Perform other duties as assigned.
- Frequent travel outside of the office to varied NYC locations. 70% of time will be spent at child care centers and 30% of time in the office.

Required Qualifications and Skills:

- Experience working in underserved communities on nutrition, food access, and health issues.
- Comfort and ability to work with diverse communities across New York City.
- Experience handling multiple tasks and working independently.
- Excellent communication (written and oral) and organization skills.
- Bilingual in Spanish.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working in schools or child care centers.
- Experience speaking to and training groups of people.
- Experience with gardening in urban environments and small spaces.
- Understanding of structural racism and health equity as it relates to the food system.

Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter to Rachel Berger, MS, RD, Farm to Preschool Coordinator at rberger5@health.nyc.gov. Deadline to apply is Friday, February 24th.