Sustainability Fellowship
Establishing a New Farmers’ Market in South Providence, RI
African Alliance of Rhode Island
Providence, RI

Summary:
Residents of the Lower and Upper South Providence neighborhoods must travel to other parts of the city to buy most of their food. For those who cannot travel, access to healthy food is severely limited. As AARI develops its focus on improving the health and quality of life for neighborhood residents, the need to develop resources for residents to access healthy ethnic foods has become very apparent. Community residents are eager to be able to grow or buy fresh and native produce, but find that there is no local source.

The purpose of this fellowship is to help establish a new Farmer’s Market for the Lower & Upper South Providence neighborhoods, to make fresh locally grown vegetables available to these communities. The proposed market will be easily accessible by public transportation and located in the heart of the community. It will be much more than a convenient farmer’s market, as it will provide a recurrent community gathering space, and the opportunity for residents of all ages and cultures to participate in communal activities. The fellow will be involved in all aspects of the new market, including attending planning committee meetings, staffing the market, performing outreach/marketing, coordinating with vendors, and assisting with market promotion.

As time permits, the fellow may be involved in the broader food system work conducted by the African Alliance of Rhode Island. Opportunities to contribute include a new local television series focused on food, as well as a project to collect photographs and stories at existing farmers’ markets and community gardens to better understand the communities who participate in these programs.

Deliverables:
- Develop key relationships and logistics needed to plan, implement and sustain the pop-up market over the long-term.
- Create a marketing outreach plan for the market.
- Recruit vendors, and create market vendor guidance.
- Set up the nutrition assistance program.
- Prepare for the opening day of the market-invitations, press release, recruit volunteers, dry run ahead of the day.
- Develop replicable systems for coordinating the market for the future.
- Contribute ideas and assistance to the development of the television series, Food Voices.
• Create a portfolio of photographs and stories that document community vitality in Providence’s west end.
• All material will be in both English and Spanish

Impact:
There are 3 farmer’s markets on the West End area of South Providence which continue to serve the West End in many ways... from sales of fresh vegetables to conversation around food, health, culture, and more. It is a meeting place where you can socialize or meet your elected officials. These are new opportunities that the farmers’ market created by the Fellow will bring to the Lower & Upper South Providence neighborhoods.

Location: African Alliance of RI, Providence RI
Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 4-August 17, 2018
Compensation: $6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:
• Personal initiative and drive, with an ability to work both independently and collaboratively within a diverse and inclusive environment.
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
• Fluency in Spanish helpful, but not required.
• Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point & Outlook, Facebook, blogs, etc.
• Ability to attend some evening meetings.
• Interest in food security and/or community development.
• Experience working in diverse and/or underserved communities.

UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:
Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation:
This fellow will receive supervision from AARI’s director, Julius Kolawole, as well as mentoring and extensive professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in the following MANDATORY events:
• A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 29-31. Lodging and meals will be provided. A limited number of travel scholarships will be available to assist with transportation to Durham.
• Weekly webinars during the course of the 10-week fellowship.
• Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, July 12. Travel support provided.
• Final project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, August 10. Travel support provided.

Apply by February 14 at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows.