

## **Nourishing Feasts & Farmacy Caretaker**

Nourishing Feasts & Farmacy is a grassroots, Afro-Indigenous food- and maternity-desert CSA program focused on the nutritional impacts to a healthy pregnancy, positive birth outcome, and a restorative postpartum. This is our first year in establishing a 100' x 50' plot for crops.

The Caretaker is a full-time role whose primary responsibility is to develop and monitor crops, manage volunteers, maintain equipment and supplies, make fiscally and functionally efficient suggestions for improvement, and produce a harvest for our CSA program. The Caretaker will be a valuable member of the leadership think-tank working to improve the continued performance and resources for the program.

The 1st year objectives include:

- Begin a 100' x 50' garden plot with select produce specific to the preferences of surveyed Afro-Indigenous expectant or nursing mothers.
- Expand the herbal and floral gardens to a 20' x 50' plot.
- Produce 10 - 15 weekly CSAs for ten weeks in the summer of 2024.

### **Scope of Service:**

Objective 1: Begin the foundation of a food forest (vegetable, fruit, nuts, and herbs) using largely permaculture methodology for a summer CSA program (75% of time).

- Assess the soil and determine permaculture amendments (e.g., cover crops).
- Establish harmonious systems for optimum soil and healthy crops such as composting and companion planting.
- Identify non-toxic pest management options.
- Plant crops, herbs, and flowers and regularly maintain gardens to produce 10 to 15 summer CSAs valued at \$400 - \$600 a season (approximately 12 pounds of produce for 10 weeks).
- Keep accurate records and develop an SOP manual based on best practices and experiential learning.
- Keep the leadership team abreast of repairs and maintenance needing additional resources.
- Adhere to all health and safety regulations.
- Collaborate with the leadership team to prepare budgets, financial and progress reports, and future growth planning.
- Build professional networks and keep abreast of developments in agricultural and permaculture science.
- Develop a draft timeline to meet 1st year objectives.

Objective 2: Inform and engage community about the Nourishing Feasts & Farmacy Program (10% of site time)

- Prepare social media posts that highlight the progress and milestones of the Nourishing Feasts & Farmacy program twice weekly for the social media coordinator to review and post.

- Identify ways volunteers can help with larger tasks, develop a work plan that adheres to safety and health regulations, and post on volunteer hubs.

Objective 3: Monitor and evaluate the project to assure its success (15% of site time).

- Monitor the plans and timelines to identify and mitigate issues and evaluate projects.
- Efficiently manage the workload of the Nourishing Feasts & Farmacy Coordinator.
- Use existing reporting tools to monitor and evaluate the goals, objectives and progress quarterly
- Evaluate the success of and challenges of the project's planning process, timeline, and disbursement and progress of tasks
- Evaluate outcomes of projects for reports and to inform future endeavors

**Desired Qualifications:**

- At least 1700 hours of experience in a production garden is a must, preferably using permaculture or other natural, holistic methods. Experience can include a family farm or small operation, volunteer or paid, and/or related coursework.
- High School Diploma required. FFA and 4H candidates a plus.
- Higher education courses in Agricultural Studies preferred.
- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must be able to engage in physical work associated with the role and in all sorts of weather.
- Must have reliable transportation.

## About AmeriCorps

- This full-time role is for 12 months and must total at least 1700 hours of service. Incumbents may renew once for a term with an educational award (2 years max) and not to exceed a total of 4 years of AmeriCorps service (final 2 years without educational award).
- Living stipend of \$21,600/annually, paid every two weeks and is considered taxable income.
- Educational awards are available at the end of a successful term and can be used for tuition and approved educational expenses at any Title IV school and towards a certificate, undergraduate or graduate degree. Currently, half-time educational awards are \$7,395 but can be subject to change.
- Additional education benefits are available for WV residents who serve within WV including tuition waiver at any public institution of higher education (upon availability).
- Incumbents may be eligible for a variety of benefits including medical, SNAP, and Child Care.
- The worksite is on a small farm in Mathias WV. Some tasks can be done remotely but not more than 20% of total hours any given week and only with prior approval.
- This is farm work. It is physical and you will get dirty. Assignment is not subject to inclement weather (unless extreme).
- For specific details about each role, select the position below.
- Incumbents are not employees of The Mountain Women Collective. AmeriCorps positions are sponsored through We the People in Washington DC and may require an initial trip there for program orientation.