

Heartland Alliance Chicago FarmWorks Internship

Summary

Chicago FarmWorks is a 2-acre farm in Garfield Park that fights poverty. We do this through two related goals: to distribute local produce of the highest quality to those who need it most, and to help people with multiple barriers to employment, such as low literacy, chronic unemployment, homelessness, and lack of skills find full-time, permanent jobs.

Harvest Commons is a permanent supportive housing program on Chicago's Near West Side for low-income residents who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Chicago FarmWorks maintains a garden, a flock of chickens, fruit trees, and a bee hive at Harvest Commons. The garden is planned, tended, and harvested cooperatively among tenants and staff.

The intern may split time between these two sites to gain an in-depth experience in mission-driven farming.

Responsibilities

- Perform farm work such as weeding, seeding, transplanting, composting, and harvesting on the farm and in greenhouse
- Research and facilitate workshops on gardening, cooking, and green living for Harvest Commons residents
- Maintain flower growing area of the farm and find sales opportunities for cut flowers
- Facilitate educational opportunities for new community gardeners
- Participate in the care for Harvest Commons chickens and bees
- Advocate for Chicago FarmWorks, Heartland Alliance, and our participants in accordance with our Philosophy of Care
- Other farm/garden projects and duties as needed

Qualifications

- Strong interest in urban agriculture, with some gardening or farming experience preferred
- Commitment to social justice, ending poverty, and helping people overcome barriers
- Desire to work outside in varying weather conditions
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to engage with participants from a wide variety of backgrounds
- High degree of initiative and ability to work independently
- Junior or senior status preferred, but highly qualified freshmen and sophomores will be considered

Compensation

The internship is unpaid. Staff will be happy to work with the intern to complete paperwork and other necessary steps to meet school requirements for internships for credit.

How to Apply

Please send a resume and cover letter to Jessica Surma, Chicago FarmWorks Manager, at jsurma@heartlandalliance.org. Please list your availability, including start and end date, days available during the week, and number of hours per week.