



GREATER CAPITAL REGION Food System Assessment

Greater Capital Region Food System Assessment (GCRFSA) Research & Internship Description

About the GCRFSA: Over the next two years, Capital Roots will work with community partners to conduct a comprehensive regional food system assessment based on four counties of consumption (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady) and eleven counties of production (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington). Assessment data will be accessed and utilized by community partners in the Capital Region to serve as a resource for future projects and policies and serve as the roadmap for a Regional Food Policy Council.

The GCRFSA represents the missing link needed to understand the issues and complexities of our regional food system and identify interdisciplinary approaches that will strengthen our community wellbeing by increasing access to healthy food in low-income communities and building agricultural capacity and economic resilience region-wide, especially for family-owned farms and food-based businesses.

GCRFSA Mission: Increase equity and economic resilience in the Greater Capital Region Food System, specifically for low-income consumers and regional producers and processors.

Research Goals:

Consumption – Identify areas of need and opportunities for growth to inform future efforts to increase food security and healthy food access for low-income consumers.

Production – Identify economic opportunities for regional farmers to build economic resilience and to identify new markets, with a focus on exploring opportunities in low-income communities.

Distribution – Identify local food distribution networks to increase markets for regional producers, with a focus on exploring opportunities in low-income communities.

Processing – Identify opportunities to promote economic development within the local food processing industry to support regional farmers and create jobs for the under-employed residents of our region.

Position Description: Capital Roots is looking for motivated and creative research interns to support food system assessment research in the subject areas of production, distribution, and processing. Research opportunities are available in the fields of economics, public policy, sociology, environmental studies, regional planning, transportation logistics, agriculture, and nutrition. Specific research topics and projects will be determined based on applicant's interests and the project's needs.

Projects can be through a capstone, thesis, or research project for a class or can be as an internship either during the academic year (2016-2017 and 2017-2018) or Summer 2017. Interns are not required to be current students. Any work contributed to the project will be acknowledged in the final publication.

Visit www.capitalroots.org/about-us/foodassessment/research/ for current list of research opportunities.

Send cover letter and resume to:

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