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landstewardshipproject.org

LSP's Community Based Food System Program Urban Organizer

Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is a private nonprofit, membership organization founded in 1982 to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop sustainable communities. LSP is dedicated to creating transformational change in our food and farming system.

LSP believes that by working together with our members and partners, culturally and racially diverse rural and urban people can take practical steps that build toward greater stewardship of the land, more family farmers, healthy food for all and resilient, racially just communities.

LSP's urban food program began seven years ago developing community gardens, working on urban land access issues and organizing advocacy for clear zoning policies that support urban agriculture in Minneapolis. The primary thrust of our current program is developing and implementing a year around food and gardening program through our relationship with Hope Community in the Phillips community. Both Hope Community and LSP are fundamentally about organizing people to build power to transform their communities and their lives. We came together around common values of racial and economic equity and to develop a year-round food program. We are building community and we are building power around food.

The community gardens at Hope, along with regular and evolving cooking/nutrition and gardening skill building classes, a youth garden and a communal garden, the Garden at the Rose, provide the arena for community and leadership development. These learning opportunities create a forum for participants to consider how the current food system affects them, and opportunities for them to develop their power to create a food system that works for them and their community. LSP membership recruitment and leadership development will be a key responsibility of this position.

The LSP Organizer will work closely with LSP and Hope staff to:

- Coordinate with Hope staff to develop and conduct community outreach and engagement;
- Conduct one to one and personal visits with potential partners in and around the community to build partnerships and coalitions;
- Support Hope Staff to develop a leadership team of Phillips neighborhood residents;
- Support/supervise food program interns;
- Coordinate with Hope Staff on day to day tasks organizing the gardening and cooking program

- Plan and produce skill-building workshops related to food (growing, processing, entrepreneurship, etc) that involve residents, partners and LSP members;
- Coordinate field trips and rural/urban farmer visits;
- Explore opportunities to build connections with participants and rural and urban farmers who direct market or market through CSA;
- Assist in fundraising and fund development for the garden work and for the Good Food Purchasing Policy work LSP will be leading with a community coalition.
- Advance a soil health and water quality initiative in conjunction with our urban food systems work.

The LSP Organizer will have responsibility for LSP member recruitment, some grassroots and grant fundraising and reporting. The position's supervisor, Director of Community Based Food Systems Program, may assign other activities. This position will work with LSP Community Based Food Systems Program Lead Organizer Maryan Abdinur and the Food, Land and Community team at Hope, and will report to the Director of Community Based Food Systems Program Terry VanDerPol.

The successful applicant will have:

- Strong communication skills, including listening skills;
- Strong preference for Spanish or Somali language skills
- An understanding of systems and how an organizing approach can effect change;
- Interest in the food system and policy, especially at the local and corporate levels, how it impacts urban lives;
- High comfort level with people of diverse ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds;
- An interest in developing organizer skills to bring people together to create the power they need to make positive changes in their communities and their lives;
- Some scheduling flexibility;
- Interest in developing grant-writing and fundraising skills.

The position is currently 75% FTE with excellent prorated benefits. There will be occasional Saturday and some evening work. Other duties may be assigned by the supervisor.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Terry VanDerPol, (tlvdp@landstewardshipproject.org) by June 2, 2017.

