

New Lands Farm Internship Opportunities – based in Worcester, MA or West Springfield, MA

New Lands Farm, a program of Ascentria Care Alliance, seeks volunteers and interns to engage in a meaningful project to assist new farmers in growing food for the local community.

New Lands Farm provides agricultural opportunities to refugee and immigrant farmers arriving from countries around the world. Our two community farms and multiple garden sites provide ready access to farm land for families living in or near urban centers of Worcester and greater Springfield. New Lands Farm is a strong, multi-cultural community of farmers and gardeners invested in growing culturally appropriate foods for their families and providing fresh foods to their local communities. Farmers sell at local farmers markets, grocery stores, and through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Our mission: New Lands Farm empowers new Americans through agriculture projects to honor their food traditions, earn supplemental income, and contribute in a meaningful way to their new community and the local food system.

About the Position

New Lands Farm interns conduct hands-on assistance to new refugee and immigrant farmers in the classroom, on our farm sites, and at various garden sites. New Lands farmers represent diverse backgrounds and skills. Interns work directly with New Lands Farm staff to offer new farmer trainings and manage agriculture production. Interns are involved in a diversity of activities associated with the program including farm management, field work, market coordination, transportation, volunteer coordination, and program development. They also have the opportunity to attend agricultural trainings, access land for personal gardening/farming, or create self-directed projects that benefit the program.

This position is unpaid. Hours and schedule are flexible based on program and interns' needs. We accept interns for a semester, the summer, or a year. Long term volunteers are also welcome. We will work with your college or university to provide credit if requested.

Intern Responsibilities:

Interns support the New Lands Farm staff, farmers and gardeners in a variety of ways. Examples include the following:

- Researching and ordering equipment, tools, seeds, supplies
- Conducting field tasks, such as preparing new beds, planting, harvesting, maintaining/building infrastructure
- Establishing new urban gardens

- Organizing trainings and field trips for farmers
- Planning and organizing farm events and volunteer days
- Researching field production challenges, such as diseases or irrigation improvements
- Overseeing harvest, post-harvest handling and preparation for market
- Attending farmers' markets and assisting with deliveries
- Contributing to New Lands Farm website and social media outlets
- Documenting project and season through photos, video and/or written word

Qualifications:

- Demonstrate background in growing food, promoting local agriculture
- Previous vegetable field work and market crop production experience a plus
- Comfortable interacting with clients from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Ability to work in adverse weather conditions and lift 50 pounds
- Driver's license necessary and personal vehicle preferred
- Team player who can work independently as needed
- Strong record keeping, organization and computer skill
- Bi-lingual language skills (Kirundi, Nepali, or Swahili) highly sought

If interested, please forward your resume and cover letter to New Lands Program Manager Shemariah Blum-Evitts at sblum-evitts@ascentria.org. Positions are available throughout the season and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Please visit our website for more information: www.newlandsfarm.org.