



**Community Food &
Agriculture Coalition**



SENIOR FOOD ACCESS INTERNSHIP AT THE COMMUNITY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COALITION

Purpose: The Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC) aims to increase the production and consumption of Montana-grown foods so that everyone has access to local food, farmers are successful, and farmland is in active production. In 2015, CFAC launched the Double SNAP Dollar (DSD) program – a state-wide SNAP matching program coordinated by CFAC and a network of partners - based on the belief that all people, no matter their socio-economic status, deserve to eat healthy, local produce. We understand that one of the main barriers to eating local produce, especially for people living close to the poverty line, is the high cost of these foods. Building off of this work, CFAC began administering the state’s Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) in 2022. This Federal Nutrition program provides \$48 worth of coupons to low-income seniors for use at approved farmer’s markets and roadside stands, improving participants’ access to local food, nutrition education, and community engagement.

The Internship position will assist the Food Access Program Team at CFAC in planning and implementing our 2023 season in addition to exploring other ways CFAC can work to improve Senior Nutrition and Food Access in the state (especially through existing SNAP, DSD, and Produce Rx Programs). Much of the internship will be spent focusing on coordinating Missoula County’s local SFMNP, with ample opportunity for field experience with seniors, farmer’s markets, and food insecurity specialists through the year.

Results: At the end of this internship, adequate feedback from SFMNP sites and participants will have been collected and used to evaluate and reflect on '23 program. All Missoula Co. SFMNP coupons will have been collected, tracked, and reimbursed; an internal SFMNP resource library will have been created to house new and existing program documents as well as support new program model. Communication and relationships between sites, food producers, seniors, and CFAC will be strengthened through internship.

Compensation: \$2,000 stipend upon completion

General activities:

- Attend weekly CFAC Staff and Food Access Team meetings (3 hours/week)
- Research/explore Senior Food Access landscape; assess CFAC’s role in strengthening Senior Food Access in MT
- Conduct exploratory interviews with SFMNP participants, site managers, and/or partners

CFAC Senior Food Access Intern, Program Year 2023

- Provide in-person SFMNP outreach in Missoula Co. - Seniors and Farmers
- Help sign-up and distribute coupons to low-income seniors in Missoula Co.
- Help collect/input/analyze coupon data throughout market season
- Implement an evaluation to gather participant feedback at end of season
- Participate in relevant local Food/Hunger Coalition(s) and report out to Food Access Team
- Assess general Senior food access programs (SFMNP, SNAP, WIC) and identify strategies to increase referral to, enrollment in, and utilization of federal food and nutrition benefits.

This position can be adapted to fit certain internship needs and some tasks may be weighted to better fit the skills and interest of the volunteer.

Measures: We will measure the success of this position on the quality of coupon tracking/data input, timeliness of project completion, and overall ability to build/maintain positive relationships with volunteers, food producers, community organizers, and others who are invested in local food access and security for seniors.

Qualifications:

- Strong inter-personal skills: ability to build relationships with Seniors and Senior Resource Centers/advocates in Montana
- Passionate about food access and local food
- Well organized: keep track of data, paper reports etc. - this program has a lot of moving parts
- Ability to follow directions then complete a task without constant supervision.
- Ability to stay connected and communicate with team members
- Experience with online platforms

Time frame:

- Approximately 10-15 hours a week total, within the timeframes of 9-5 M-F in addition to field work at farmers markets on select Saturday mornings

Site:

- Most hours will be spent working remotely with possible time at the CFAC office for staff meetings, and access to the office throughout the week if desired
- May- August, with some work at Missoula area farmer's markets on weekends

Supervision: This position will be supervised by CFAC's Food Access Program Manager. Regular check-ins via weekly staff and program meetings will be expected

Benefits:

- Learn about nonprofit and federal program administration
- Develop personal and professional relationships in the community (networking)
- Develop professional skills such as communication, accurate data entry, database knowledge, client interaction, and possible program evaluation
- Become more involved in the local food community

- Being a part of a great organization doing wonderful things in the community!
- Stipend and field experience