



Job Training Program Case Manager

Organization and Program Description:

Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is a community-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. Since 1989, we have provided children, adults, and families in Salt Lake County with access to land and education for growing and eating fresh produce, while building and nurturing community connections through gardening and healthy food. We accomplish this through five main programs: Community Garden, Education, Youth & School Gardens, Job Training, and Volunteers.

Position Overview

By leveraging the therapeutic environment of WCG's urban farm, the Job Training Program (JTP) serves as a model for using gardens and farms to develop connection, social capital, and self-sufficiency among at-risk populations. WCG hires women who are facing or experiencing homelessness as the farm's crew with the goal of providing a supportive environment for them to identify, work toward, and achieve their goals (i.e. secure housing, financial literacy, employment, etc.) while building transferable job skills. The Case Manager reports to the Job Training Program Director and is responsible for supporting the effective implementation of the program, primarily through case management, advocacy, and continuum of care while practicing trauma-informed care and maintaining a psychologically-informed work environment. The Case Manager is also responsible for maintaining supportive relationships and continued engagement with past team members and alumni.

Primary Responsibilities:

Recruitment (15%, varies by season)

- Oversee street-based outreach and recruitment efforts and refer individuals back to Job Training Program Director and/or Taste of the Farm days
- Attend all Taste of the Farm days, talk with participants to get to know them and their goals and assess their readiness for the program, and participate in the interview process
- Build and maintain close relationship with prospective Green Team members throughout the season and support them in completing necessary "pre-work" in order to begin the program on time
- Strengthen existing and establish new relationships with community organizations and other social service agencies

Onboarding and Program Implementation (15%, varies by season)

- Support Program Director in planning and carrying out orientation activities such as leading group discussions, addressing barriers, and building and maintaining a safe, psychologically-informed environment for program participants
- Administer a needs assessment and work with team members to eliminate barriers to work, such as transportation, clothing, childcare, time management, personal issues,

- public benefits, etc.
- Facilitate weekly 1-on-1 check-in meetings with team members with a focus on housing connections, barriers to employment, connection to additional resources, and individual goals
- Review team members' cases weekly with the Program Director and provide updates on women's progress toward housing, goals, and other disclosed needs
- Attend, support, and occasionally lead NOURISH Days (including planning/leading art and creative sessions, and coordinating guest speakers and field trips)
- Provide secondary support to the Program Director throughout the Green Team's job search process and ensure employment goals are in alignment with other goals (housing, financial, mental health, etc.)
- Maintain up-to-date digital, confidential records and other data related to programming and team members

Advocacy (30%)

- Coordinate with women's other existing case managers, parole officers, etc., to ensure progress toward goals is being made for each individual case
- Create safety plan and housing stabilization plan with each team member
- Make referrals and recommendations to partner agencies and other resources, including applicable coalitions and working groups, maintaining key point of contact at each location
- Work with each team member to ensure any applicable legal issues are being addressed (getting a background check, attending court, expungement process, etc.)
- Work with other organizations to improve two-way referrals and wrap-around support for Green Team members

Continuum of Care and Ongoing Support (30%)

- Provide continuum of care/ongoing support as women transition from the farm through regular check-ins, liaising with landlord/property management, and coordinating resources (financial counseling, substance abuse referrals, mental health referrals, etc.) that promote self-sufficiency
- Offer case management services to team members in a variety of settings including but not limited to, client homes, agency office space, farm/garden sites, and occasional street outreach.
- Support women in updating housing stabilization and safety plans as housing transitions occur
- Provide support to the Program Director and team members in ensuring successful, long-term employment
- Play key role in alumni engagement including planning and attending programming for past participants and maintaining current contact information

Additional Responsibilities (10%)

- Participate in program trainings, staff meetings, program meetings, and other committee meetings as needed
- Participate in WCG events and general staff responsibilities
- Take on other program-related duties as needed

Required Qualifications:

- Experience working effectively with diverse community members, including unsheltered and other low-income populations, in individual and group contexts
- Understanding of and ability to practice trauma-informed care

- Commitment to culturally competent community involvement and organizing, community empowerment, food justice, and growing/strengthening values-aligned partnerships
- Confident and comfortable in acting as an advocate and ally for marginalized community members in situations of one-time and systemic inequities
- Organized, motivated, and able to work independently and as part of a group
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Ability to handle conflict professionally and navigate contentious situations
- Ability to work evenings and weekends with advanced notice, and respond to team members' crisis situations in a timely manner
- Reliable method of transportation and ability to travel throughout Salt Lake County to attend community meetings, events, and support participants and alumni as needed
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Google applications or willingness to learn
- Ability to navigate an urban farm setting in varied weather conditions (this includes: significant cold and heat; dry and rainy/snowy/wet conditions; uneven surfaces such as gravel, woodchips, wooden steps; etc.) and ability to accomplish occasional physical tasks associated with farm/garden work

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or professional certification in related field
- At least 3 years professional social work/case management experience
- Familiarity with local low-income housing navigation, regulations, and community resources
- Experience in data collection and record keeping or willingness to learn
- Ability to work independently or with a team

Hours:

This position is 40 hours a week, and the schedule varies throughout the season. This position requires some evenings, weekends, and on-call availability.

Salary and Benefits:

Compensation will be commensurate with qualifications and experience with a hiring range of \$40,000-\$45,000 and a salary growth range of \$40,000-\$50,000. Includes health insurance, 401K, paid holidays, sick and vacation leave, and access to garden produce.

To Apply:

Please email the following materials to openings@wasatchgardens.org:

- Resume
- Names, titles, and phone numbers of three professional references
- Short response (one page total) to the following items:
 1. Why are you interested in this position?
 2. What strengths will you bring to our team and this position?

Please put "Job Training Program Case Manager" in the subject line of your email. Applications will be accepted until 5pm on Monday, January 8th, 2024. **Applications without references and responses to the questions above will not be considered.**

Applicants must submit to and clear a background check in order to work with program participants.

People of color, people with disabilities, veterans, and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. WCG is committed to providing equal employment opportunities for all employees and applicants for employment based on individual qualifications and without regard to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, mental or physical disabilities, sexual orientation, or any other similarly protected status. It is our policy to comply with all applicable laws governing employment practices and not to discriminate on the basis of any unlawful criteria. WCG values the diverse backgrounds of its employees and works to create an open atmosphere of trust, honesty, and respect. WCG is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment decisions.