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Creating Livelihood Opportunities for Refugees

Refugee Food Access Program Coordinator

About MRC and New Leaf Agriculture

Multicultural Refugee Coalition (MRC) is an innovative nonprofit organization employing refugees in fair-wage, dignified work. MRC operates a textile manufacturing social enterprise and a 20-acre certified organic commercial farm as well as offering skills development for refugees.

MRC's New Leaf Agriculture program trains and employs refugee farmers from traditional farming cultures in dignified work that reconnects them to the earth in their new communities. The program is based on a 20-acre commercial farm outside of Austin where the farmers learn about Central Texas agriculture methods while using organic and regenerative practices.

Refugee farmers earn an income contributing to collective farm projects. The team grows for local farmers' markets, restaurants, and families through a weekly Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Additionally, New Leaf Agriculture provides growing space through a "Traditional Provisions" program. This is a community garden style program through which refugees grow culturally appropriate crops for their own communities, receiving a stipend for their efforts.

Position

The Refugee Food Access Program Coordinator ("Coordinator") works in conjunction with the New Leaf Agriculture Director ("Farm Director") to implement the Traditional Provisions Program. This includes information gathering and program development, leading the transition from our current community garden presence out to the farm, and helping to design the structure and implementation of this unique program.

Approximately 50% of time will be spent coordinating the Traditional Provisions program and 50% of time spent performing farm activities. This schedule will fluctuate based on the seasons and farm needs. Examples of farm activities include washing, packing, and greenhouse work, as well as some farm team transportation, especially during roselle season in the fall.

Work Days: Tuesday-Saturday 7:30 am-3:30 pm, or otherwise noted by New Leaf Farm Director. **The start date for this position is May 16th, 2022.**

The farm address is 17312 Littig Rd., Elgin TX 78621.

Compensation

- Compensation is \$18 per hour for approximately 40 hours/week. The position will also receive 16 days (128 hours) of PTO each year (prorated according to start date).

Qualifications:

- Experience or ability to work with low-English speaking communities with patience, respect and inclusiveness
- Willing to learn
- Experience in program design, preferably in the nonprofit sector
- Experience in information gathering and data collection
- Experience managing a team
- Respect MRC values
- Work efficiently in all weather conditions
- Experience with farming or gardening
- Can lift at least 50 lbs

Responsibilities:

- Communicate with refugee, asylee and immigrant communities in Austin
- Collect information from program participants about preferred crops and growing methods
- Network with food access and refugee organizations to develop working relationships
- Build a new nonprofit refugee food access program
- Work to keep programs on schedule, within stated budgets and functioning smoothly
- Support program growth and development as necessary
- Transport program participants to and from the farm
- Assist Farm Director in designing harvest goals and distribution channels
- Assist Farm Director in designing educational programming for participants
- Lead education workshops as needed
- Communicate effectively with the Farm Director
- Make daily updates to planting, harvest, and donation records
- Keep updated records and create reports or proposals
- Assist Farm Director with Field Tasks as needed
- Be familiar with the MRC organization and represent it well in inquiries, tours, and events
- Ensure cleanliness of farm facilities
- Ensure the safety of all team members and volunteers

How to Apply

Please send your resume and cover letter with two professional references to Farm Director Matt Simon at msimon@mrcaustin.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Final candidates will need to complete a background check. We ask applicants to be open to discussing any findings with us as we may have questions.