



Food Economy Intern Job Description

The Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) seeks an intern interested in supporting Food Economy efforts by working with OPED toward advancing healthy food access, equitable food systems, and public health. These goals align with the statewide project Mass in Motion that promotes opportunities for healthy eating and active living in the places people live, learn, work and play. The intern will work with the Senior Project Manager at OPED and in coordination with its partners.

The Food Economy & Planning Intern will support research and evaluation on food economy planning models; develop resources including model food economy language; and foster collaboration and engagement in the field. The intern will support efforts to convene partners and facilitate conversation, exchange, and collaboration to increase effectiveness of healthy food access efforts. Food Economy includes farms, farmers' markets, CSAs, distributors, food processors and manufacturers, seed, feed, and equipment dealers.

This is an opportunity to work in a dynamic, multidisciplinary and collaborative department, and in an environment, that requires creative systems thinking and centralizing health equity in all efforts. The position will provide opportunities for collaboration with local public-sector partners, application of food system or economy technical expertise and research, and exposure to a diversity of the community of Holyoke and partners who are fostering healthy and equitable food economy systems.

Examples of Duties:

- Conduct and synthesize research on food economy bodies (i.e. committees, commissions, boards or councils) and planning models that may best fit for the City of Holyoke.
- Support evaluation of food economy planning and implementation efforts, including their role and contributions to the field and practice of community food assessments.
- Support development of resources and tools for use by the City of Holyoke and partners. Examples of tools include models, structures and systems for a municipal led food economy committee, commission, board or council.
- Support engagement of food economy and public health partners to foster exchange and collaboration.

Qualifications:

The following are required qualifications for the position:

- Currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate program in food systems, economics, urban and regional planning, public health, or a related course of study
- Knowledge in principles of root causes and social determinants of health, health equity, food systems, food access, public health.
- Experience working with diverse stakeholders including community leaders, non- and for-profit organizations, and members of city government
- Experience working with populations from diverse cultures and income levels
- Ability to communicate effectively with external partners
- Experienced in project management
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to prioritize and multi-task
- Strong technical writing skills and ability to prepare detailed reports
- Strong facilitation skills - preferred bi-lingual English & Spanish proficiency
- Strong presentation skills, ability to present in formal and informal settings
- Competent in Outlook, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, Microsoft Word

Duration: Start Fall 2021. Job to be completed no later than May 30th, 2022.

Please send a letter of interest and resume by August 30, 2021 to: espinosac@holyoke.org