



CFI Internships and Volunteer Positions

Community Food Initiatives (CFI) is a nonprofit in Athens, Ohio with the mission to foster communities where everyone has equitable access to healthy, local food.

CFI works towards this mission by maintaining community gardens, distributing fresh local food to area food pantries and service agencies, inspiring people to cook and eat locally available produce, operating a donation-based mobile produce market, engaging youth, and empowering communities to design their own solutions to increase food security. <https://communityfoodinitiatives.org>

General Qualifications:

- Passionate about CFI's mission and committed to [CFI's values](#) of culture and community, education and empowerment, justice, and collaboration.
- Interested in learning about food justice and local food
- Energetic, flexible, accountable, and reliable
- Ability to contribute individually and participate in a team
- Comfortable with basic utilization of technology for regular communication and coordination of work activities (email, google docs, zoom, etc.)
- Able to work outside for 6-7 hours and lift 50 pounds
- Has access to reliable transportation

Time Commitment: Varies based on specific interest and assignments. Volunteers generally serve 2-10 hours per week, interns or formal placements 10 - 35 hours/ week.

Schedule: Variable based on program events and needs as well as availability--see information on each program area, below. The intern or volunteer will work with the supervisor to set weekly or monthly responsibilities and schedule. Interns and formal placements generally also attend staff meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 12pm, as well as regular weekly or bi-weekly check-ins with a supervisor. CFI utilizes both in person and virtual meetings.

Benefits: Gain experience with a local Athens nonprofit; opportunity for creative leadership, and for involvement with work that has a big impact; CFI Membership benefits, including free entry to workshops and access to a community garden plot.

How to Apply: Contact Susie Huser, Director of Outreach, at susie@communityfoodinitiatives.org with your name, contact information, and a brief description of your interest and relevant experience. CFI positions are filled on a rolling basis.

Interns and volunteers can support CFI's work in many ways, including:

Support CFI **Food Access Programs** that bring fresh, local food from farmers and producers to organizations and individuals throughout the community.

- Lead Donation Station at Athens Farmers Market (AFM). Set up booth, receive donations, and shop with vendors. Saturdays 8am-1pm year round; Wednesdays 8am-1pm April through November. AFM is at the Athens Community Center on East State Street, loading and unloading at CFI offices at ACEnet on Columbus Road.
- Sort and prepare produce for distribution weekly on Mondays 5pm-7pm year round at CFI offices at ACEnet on Columbus Road.
- Distribute food to partners Tuesdays 8am-11am year round at CFI offices at ACEnet on Columbus Road. Additional special distributions scheduled as needed.
- Set up and run the Veggie Van donation-based mobile farm market - March through October on Wednesdays and Fridays 2pm-6pm, additional weekly and pop-up events to be scheduled throughout the season.
- Travel to the Chesterhill Produce Auction to bid on, collect, and transport bulk quantities of local produce. Mondays and Thursdays 3pm-7pm late April through October in Chesterhill, OH, loading and unloading at CFI offices.
- Grow and harvest food for CFI at the Vest Berries Farm in Stewart, OH, or at the Community Garden in Nelsonville, OH, and travel to harvest and transport donated food when gleaning opportunities arise. Times based on weather and growing needs; March through November.
- Work with the Discovery Kitchen team to prepare samples using local produce, host tasting tables, and offer cooking workshops. Day and times vary; generally once or twice per month, with 2 to 3 hour events each.
- Create and compile resources for Discovery Kitchen, including recipes, videos, social media posts.

Support **Community Gardens** that empower community members to grow and share their own fresh food through educational workshops, garden giveaways, and maintenance and improvement of shared access garden spaces.

- Distribute seed potatoes at annual giveaway event at ACEnet Nelsonville Business Center and Food Hub, mid-March.
- Organize, promote, and run seed giveaways in partnership with Athens Libraries. Prepare January through March, implement in April. Locations vary.
- Prepare and run CFI's plant start giveaway events at ACEnet centers in Athens and Nelsonville and at Veggie Van, early to mid May.
- Assist in organizing, scheduling, and promoting community-led garden education workshops; time and locations vary, March through November.
- Work with volunteer groups to carry out garden improvement and maintenance projects; days and time vary, usually 2 to 3 hours on an evening or weekend at CFI community gardens in Athens or Nelsonville.
- Organize and support weekly Community Garden "Work Parties" with gardeners at Eastside (East State Street Athens), Southside (Carriage Hill Apartments, Athens), Hope Drive, and Nelsonville Community Gardens. April through October.
- Assist community partners in developing, maintaining, and managing their onsite community garden spaces as needed.

Assist with **Youth Education Programs** that promote healthy eating, outdoor activity, environmental awareness, creativity, and gardening skills, as well as supporting learning outcomes.

- Lead Sprouts garden-based enrichment lessons in three local elementary schools - Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am-3pm September through May
- Assist with monthly Pre-K classes. Monday mornings September through May.
- Co-Lead weekly activities with youth or youth and adults at CFI Garden Clubs at partner organizations and community garden sites in Athens and Nelsonville. Schedule varies; June-August.
- Help plan and lead one time or short series garden-themed activities for youth at local summer camps, partner organization programs, and community events. Schedule varies; year round.
- Plan and organize supplies for lessons and activities.

Support **Nourishing Networks** community workshops that bring together diverse stakeholders to identify and address locally-specific resources and challenges for healthy food access.

- Learn the Nourishing Networks framework in order to co-lead training sessions and serve as a facilitator for community and campus workshops. Schedule and location varies within Athens and Washington Counties; year round.
- Work with community partners and community members to promote the program, find host sites, solicit food and space donations, and recruit participants.
- Document and share the outcomes from the workshops via presentations, written documents, social media, and more to support community goals.

Provide **general support** to strengthen capacity and expand services across all CFI programs.

- Be part of the team that organizes and implements educational and outreach events throughout the winter and spring, including tabling, presentations, and volunteer training and appreciation.
- Create and deliver resources such as recipes, information or “make and take” activity kits for partner organizations.
- Support projects of the Farm to Ohio Working group and Appalachian Accessible Food Network.
- Assist with promotion, organization, and creating outreach materials such as handouts, videos, newsletters, press releases, reports, fundraising letters, and social media posts.
- Help plan and host CFI events such as open houses, annual member meeting, fundraisers.
- Organize and maintain physical spaces and equipment to support program goals.
- Propose, design, and implement a capacity building project or program event based on the alignment of your skills and interests with CFI’s mission and needs.