

# Office of Food Systems Resilience Summer Internship

## About the Internship

In July 2022, Montgomery County (MD) government launched a newly created Office of Food Systems Resilience (OFSR) to develop and maintain a strategy for improving the efficiency, equity, sustainability, and resilience of the food system in Montgomery County. Through fostering public-private partnerships with the community toward systems change, the OFSR expands upon the County's investments in ensuring equitable and dignified access to nutritious, culturally diverse foods for all residents and harnesses the unique strengths of business, nonprofit and government partners to enhance the health of our people, our economy, and our natural resources. Learn more about the OFSR here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ofsr/>

## OFSR Core Values:

- **Equity:** all efforts should address social injustice and racial disparities to build equity in our community.
- **Systems-based:** strategies should focus on identifying, maximizing, and addressing the interconnections of food issue areas, simultaneously contextualizing their benefits and their impacts on production, access, natural resources, education, and economy.
- **Innovation:** to transform our food system, novel approaches, creative ideas, and best practices models from other jurisdictions are critical.
- **Data-driven:** strategic policy and investment decisions require intentional and reliable data collection and analysis and solutions with clearly defined success metrics and measurable impact.

The OFSR is seeking interns for the summer (May-August 2024) and fall (September-December 2024) to support OFSR initiatives. This is a part-time professional development opportunity for Montgomery County residents who have professional experience or education related to food systems, including in policy, public health, agriculture, sustainability, and/or other related fields. Internships with the OFSR offer exposure to a variety of unique experiences, including researching grant opportunities, best practices and models from other jurisdictions, and local impacts of state and federal policy shifts, while also directly engaging in policy development, data collection and analysis, and external communications.

**Interns must commit to 8 – 10 weeks during their selected season and a minimum of 20 hours per week.** Interns will receive a \$400 per week stipend, paid in two installments (at the mid-point of the internship and end of the internship).

## Scope of Internship

Interns will work closely with County staff and community partners to gain experience and provide the OFSR with operational, programmatic, and administrative support related to one or more of the focus areas outlined below:

- *Value Chain Coordination:* Connecting Montgomery County farms and food businesses to market opportunities in the local food system.
- *Grant Management:* Assisting with the administration of funding partnerships with community-based organizations, including the SNAP Outreach and Enrollment, School-Based Food Assistance, Community Food Assistance, Food as Medicine, and Resident and Community Gardening grant programs.
- *Interagency Coordination:* Fostering collaborative implementation of OFSR programs in partnership with other County agencies and MCPS contacts.
- *Community Partner Coordination:* Engaging with external partners, including nonprofit organizations, private businesses, schools, and residents in program implementation.

Tasks may include drafting communications content, communication templates, and operating procedures; coordinating meeting logistics; conducting research; and performing other tasks that will promote the efficiency, equity, sustainability, and resilience of the food systems in Montgomery County.

### **Minimum Qualifications**

Interns must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a Montgomery County resident;
- Be at least 18 years of age; and
- Have a high school diploma.

Successful candidates will demonstrate the ability to work both independently and collaboratively, have strong organizational and professional communications skills, and utilize creative and analytical approaches to address challenges. This internship offers a hybrid working environment with regular in-person office work hours in Rockville, MD. Summer interns must have reliable access to the technology required to work remotely (including computer, phone, and stable internet connection), as well as reliable access to transportation and consistent availability to work onsite in Montgomery County. A virtual interview may be required as a component of the application process.

### **How to Apply**

Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to [\*\*ofsr@montgomerycountymd.gov\*\*](mailto:ofsr@montgomerycountymd.gov). In the cover letter, applicants should describe their interest, skills, and qualifications related to this opportunity, as well as their perspective on strategies to: 1) engage the Montgomery County community in the local food system and 2) address local food system issues and challenges. Please indicate in your cover letter your desired internship dates.

**Deadline for Applications:** Accepted on a rolling basis, with a priority deadline of May 1 for Summer 2024 and July 15<sup>th</sup> for Fall 2024.