



## **Wisconsin School Garden Initiative Training and Outreach Specialist**

Community GroundWorks is seeking an experienced garden-based learning professional to develop and offer training and technical assistance services for teachers, early childhood providers, afterschool educators, Master Gardener Volunteers, Farm to School AmeriCorps members, and UW-Extension agents statewide as part of the new Wisconsin School Garden Initiative.

### **Position Description and Qualifications**

See the job description below for complete details.

### **Apply**

Please submit resume or CV, cover letter and three references to Nathan Larson at [nathan@troygardens.org](mailto:nathan@troygardens.org). Application deadline is March 8.

### **About the Wisconsin School Garden Initiative**

The Wisconsin School Garden Initiative is a collaborative program between Community GroundWorks, University of Wisconsin-Madison and other statewide partners. The Initiative builds off of the success of the *Got Dirt? Garden Initiative* to employ youth gardening and garden-based education strategies to reduce the rates of overweight and obesity in Wisconsin's children, ages 2-18. Specifically, the Wisconsin School Garden Initiative aims to:

- Increase the number of sustainable gardens at schools, after-school sites, and regulated group and family childcare centers across Wisconsin
- Increase consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as opportunities for outdoor physical activity, among children in Wisconsin
- Contribute to the evidence base that the Comprehensive Farm to School model—which includes school gardens and nutrition education—strengthens the effect on child health outcomes

The Wisconsin School Garden Initiative promotes partnership through the development of a sustainable, statewide youth gardening network between state agencies (Department of Public Instruction, Department of Health Services, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection), nonprofit agencies, UW-Extension, State Master Gardener Association, and University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty. This project will also focus on creating a bridge between existing statewide farm to school efforts and statewide youth gardening efforts to more effectively support comprehensive farm to school implementation.

The Wisconsin School Garden Initiative will utilize training, resource development and technical assistance to support gardens and garden-based education at schools, child care centers and after-school programs across the state. Resources will include *Got Veggies?: A Garden-based Nutrition Education Curriculum* and *Got Dirt?: A Garden Toolkit for Implementing Youth Gardens*.

**Funding for this project was provided by the Wisconsin Partnership Program  
at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.**



## Job Description

**Job Title:** Wisconsin School Garden Initiative Training and Outreach Specialist

### POSITION SUMMARY

Responsible for developing, managing, implementing and evaluating training and technical assistance services for teachers, early childhood providers, afterschool educators, Master Gardener Volunteers, Farm to School AmeriCorps members, and UW-Extension agents statewide.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** include the following:

- Develop and conduct school garden development and garden-based nutrition education trainings with teachers, early childhood providers, and afterschool educators.
- Identify and recruit UW-Extension agents for train-the-trainer sessions on school garden development and garden-based nutrition education.
- Develop, disseminate and analyze training participant surveys.
- Disseminate educational resources including curricula, toolkits, and policy briefs.
- Provide support to educators, administrators and parents interested in establishing garden policies at schools and child care centers.
- Collaborate with UW-Extension to implement basic and advanced Master Gardener Volunteer trainings on youth gardening and garden-based education.
- Conduct trainings and provide ongoing technical assistance on school garden design, garden program management, and garden-based curricula for WI Farm to School AmeriCorps Members.
- Provide technical assistance on school garden development and garden-based nutrition education via webinars, regional and statewide meetings, and on-site and telephone consultations.
- Build relationships and coordinate with schools and community organizations to organize training workshop events and recruit participants.
- Assist in program grant reporting duties.
- Other duties as assigned.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- At least two years of experience facilitating garden-based nutrition education programs for a diverse population of young people.
- At least two years of experience with school/educational garden design, installation, and maintenance.
- Experience leading training workshops for formal and non-formal educators.
- Experience building relationships and working with other organizations effectively.
- Experience with program evaluation.
- Ability to develop effective work plans, manage details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.



- Ability to multi-task and prioritize in a dynamic work environment.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to work as a team member with minimal supervision.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office.
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills and excellent phone manner.
- Ability to operate standard office equipment.
- Experience working in a community-based nonprofit environment.
- Bachelor's degree.
- Access to a vehicle for travel across the state required.
- Occasional evening and weekend hours required.

### **SCHEDULE**

This is a full-time, year-round LTE position with occasional evening and weekend hours required. The employment dates are from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2016.

### **COMPENSATION**

Starting wage is \$32,136/year plus benefits.