



2018

Local Food Security Project Intern

The **Local Food Security Project** is looking for motivated interns interested in learning about agricultural activism, national policy work, grant-writing, community food systems, food deserts, nutrition education, and food insecurity (*position open for Spring, Summer, or Fall*).

Project Description:

The **Local Food Security Project** works to increase food security in the Alachua County area through education, outreach, and farmer's market promotion.

- *Access to nutritious food is a barrier to healthy living for 19.8% of Alachua County residents*
- *11% of the county's population receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (EBT)*
- *For every \$5 spent in SNAP, there is a \$9 ripple effect through the local economy*
- *Farmer's markets located in Low Access & Low Income areas represent access to nutritious food, and SNAP dollars support both healthy eating and small farm producers*

Utilizing funding from the Farmer's Market SNAP Support Grant as well as contributions from Wells Fargo and other local businesses, this project has been able to run a SNAP/EBT booth at the Union Street Farmer's Market and the Alachua County Farmer's Market for over 4 years, and in 2018 added the Department of Health Farmer's Market to the network. By being present year-round, rain or shine, at these markets, this project provides access to local food for SNAP recipients and their families weekly, while supporting the small farms that produce sustainable, local food. In 2017, over \$40,000 in SNAP dollars entered our network of local markets, and over 100 farmer-vendors were positively impacted by that money.

The project also functions to provide outreach and education to the Alachua County community and increase customer-ship at the markets in its network. We research food deserts, the 'locavore' movement, and community food systems from around the world as we endeavor to increase food-consciousness and food accessibility for all locals.

Intern Description:

Being an intern of the **Local Food Security Project** will provide you with a diverse set of experiences as you hone your skills and resume for graduate school or a career. Florida Organic Growers is in its 31st year serving growers and consumers in the state and working with us will connect you to a number of forward-thinking individuals, farms, and markets. The Local Food Security Project specifically will give you experience with:

- **Hands-on farmer's market work:** *one-on-one interaction with SNAP recipients and local growers as you guide them through the distribution and redemption of SNAP tokens*
- **Statewide participation in Fresh Access Bucks:** *join statewide calls with farmer's market managers and others working in the field to improve food security by connecting SNAP customers to nutritious, accessible food*



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- **Marketing/promotion:** *increase the numbers of customers at farmer's markets using unique social media, print, and direct-mail advertisements and surveys*
- **Education:** *work with University of Florida IFAS Extension's Food and Nutrition Program cooking demo team to create interactive, healthy demonstrations and educational videos to bring to markets and increase healthy shopping & eating habits or to bring to the Learning Garden and teach kids!*
- **Outreach:** *connect with community leaders, county commissioners, and state representatives to create strong messages of healthy shopping and eating for SNAP recipients (voters!) in our community – attend conferences, festivals, and events to table with and engage community members living in food deserts*

Being a part of the FOG team will get you a free pass to our annual Organic Food & Farming Festival, on-farm workshops, and any other events where we are present. Additionally, you'll get plenty of farmer's market and FOG "swag." **Join us!**

This internship is flexible but requires at least 10 hours a week, with time off for holidays and events. Participation at one farmer's market weekly is required.

Applicants must provide:

- A brief description of their area of interest
- A resume
- His/her educational background
- Weekly availability.

EMAIL THE ABOVE TO XANNA@FOGINFO.ORG