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## Local Food Security Project Coordinator

Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers Inc. (FOG) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation established in 1987. FOG operates two programs: Education & Outreach and Quality Certification Services.

FOG began as a grassroots organization, with the office located at various times in someone's kitchen or an unused corner of a barn. The Organic Food Production Act of 1990 required that the USDA develop national standards for organic products, and FOG was heavily involved in the development of the National Organic Program regulations governing organics. The National Organic Program Final Rule was published in the Federal Register in 2000. FOG continues to be very active in policy, including continuing development of the NOP standards, food safety and genetically modified food. FOG is also active in developing and implementing Farm Bill programs.

The Local Food Security Project, managed and operated by Florida Organic Growers (FOG), is accepting applications for a part-time (15 hrs./week) employee interested in serving as its Local Food Security Project Coordinator.

**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. Among the benefits to the community for running the program include:

- 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

This project runs 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.

**Job Responsibilities:** Please note that FOG staff will provide training for this position immediately upon hire.

Responsibilities as the Local Food Security Project Coordinator includes:

- Be present at two local farmers' markets each week: the Wednesday Union Street Farmer's Market in downtown Gainesville (3PM-7:15PM); and the Saturday Alachua County Farmer's Market (8AM-12:15PM)
- At two farmer's markets, provide one-on-one interaction with SNAP recipients and local growers as you guide them through the distribution and redemption of SNAP tokens;
- During the year and in collaboration with farmer's market managers, work to increase the numbers of customers at farmer's markets using unique social media, print, and direct-mail advertisements and surveys;
- During the year and in collaboration with the farmer's market managers, University of Florida, and Feeding Florida, help coordinate cooking demos to create interactive, healthy demonstrations;
- Connect with community leaders, county commissioners, and state representatives to create strong messages of healthy shopping and eating for SNAP recipients in our community;
- Complete necessary paperwork required for this project on a weekly basis, including submitting all check requests to FOG's Accounting Supervisor, maintain receipts indicating amounts to pay farmer's market vendors, and compiling a report indicating amounts for market transactions.
- Other duties as assigned

**Compensation:** The compensation for this position is \$14/hr. with a performance review and opportunity for an hourly increase after six months. There is also the strong possibility for additional, compensated hours in the immediate future. The Local Food Security Project Coordinator will report directly to the Education & Outreach Program Director.