

# SMFSN looking to hire New Bedford City Fruit Assistant

We are seeking someone committed and enthusiastic about educating and promoting the New Bedford City Fruit initiative. The Southeastern MA Food Security Network (SMFSN) will be starting a new initiative this year, New Bedford City Fruit, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, New Bedford's Dept. of Parks, Rec, and Beaches, and Dept. of Public Infrastructure. The SMFSN is looking to hire a dedicated and open minded team member to work as the New Bedford City Fruit Assistant.

The City Fruit Assistant will work directly with the City Fruit Coordinator and the New Bedford City Arborist to complete the following goals:

- 1) Document New Bedford's urban fruit infrastructure
- 2) Conduct city-wide outreach and education
- 3) Implement promotion and marketing plan
- 4) Host year-end community harvest event.

## **Essential Job Responsibilities:**

- Communications: Conducting interviews with fruit tree owners, managing the City Fruit website and social media outlets, attending related partner meetings, community events, to promote and build relationships
- Research: Traveling throughout city for site visits to orchards and community gardens, creating a database of fruit trees- private and public- using basic mapping computer programs
- Orchard Management: Training with City Arborist orchard management techniques, learning and implementing orchard maintenance
- Event support: Assisting with planning and coordinating of

community harvest event

**Working Conditions:**

- Able to reliably work from home with access to remote office
- Flexible schedule, with occasional weekend events
- The physical environment requires the employee to work both inside and outside in heat/cold, wet/humid, and dry/arid conditions.
- Able to lift up to 40 pounds
- Compensated travel throughout city of New Bedford
- May be alone with residents on their properties for site visits and interviews

**Minimum Requirements to Apply:**

- High school diploma or GED equivalent
- Bilingual in English and Portuguese
- Access to reliable weekly transportation/ valid driver's license

**Preferred Skills, Knowledge, & Experience:**

- Knowledge in agriculture, urban farming, or related field-however willingness to learn these areas is also suitable
- Interest in writing, public health, food security, and/or environmental issues
- Ability to comfortably interview resident fruit growers
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Experience in social media, web page maintenance
- Assume responsibility, deal effectively with problems, and exercise independent judgment when making decisions.
- Ability to develop and use empathetic listening skills, communicate with clarity and maintain an attitude that conveys respect, assistance, honesty and resourcefulness.
- Ability to have fun and work in a collaborative environment.
- Must have a strong commitment to New Bedford City Fruit's work and mission.
- Must be a self-starter with excellent ability to work

independently and proactively

- Must have excellent human relations, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Must possess the ability to get along with diverse personalities and populations.
- Must be highly organized, with an eye toward efficiency and careful attention to detail.
- Excellent Microsoft Office and basic computer skills.
- Experience with Google Earth, Facebook, Mailchimp, WordPress helpful.

**Hours/Pay:**

- Seasonal, part-time position, 25 hours/week from April 4th-November 30th
- Commitment to the full growing and harvest season is required
- Limited vacation days may be available with early notice
- \$17/hour

**To Apply:**

Please send the attached completed application to Stephanie Reusch at [semafoodsecurity@ymcasouthcoast.org](mailto:semafoodsecurity@ymcasouthcoast.org)

**Application Priority Deadline: Monday, March 14th 2015**

The above statements describe the general nature of the work being performed by the employee, but are not an exhaustive list. The Southeastern MA Food Security Network is an equal opportunity employer and committed to workforce diversity.

---