



Farm Education and Community Outreach Coordinator Boston Medical Center, Boston Massachusetts

About Boston Medical Center

For more than 100 years, Boston Medical Center has been driven by a commitment to care for all people, regardless of their ability to pay, providing not only traditional medical care, but also programs and services that wrap around that care to enhance overall health. All of this supports our mission to provide exceptional care, without exception. Since 2001, the hospital's Preventive Food Pantry and The Teaching Kitchen have addressed hunger-related illness and malnutrition for BMC's low-income patients. In 2017, BMC opened its first rooftop farm as a complement to the hospital's efforts to address food insecurity and environmental sustainability. The farm has been so successful that the hospital will open a second rooftop farm in the spring of 2024. [Learn more.](#)

About Higher Ground Farm

Higher Ground Farm (HG) works with institutions to design on-site farms and gardens that provide fresh, organic food as well as educational, team building, and community benefit opportunities. Higher Ground provides management services for BMC's farms including hiring, training, and supporting staff, and overseeing the operations of the rooftop farms. [Learn more.](#)

Position Description

The Boston Medical Center (BMC) Farm Education and Community Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for designing and leading education programming for the two BMC rooftop farms. They will work with the hospital food pantry, teaching kitchen, and other hospital staff to align the farm's education activities with the goals of the hospital. Additionally the Coordinator will form and maintain partnerships with external aligned organizations working in the local food and food justice spaces.

This position is for a creative thinker, skilled communicator, and enthusiastic food and farm educator of all age groups. The goal of this position is to maintain and expand upon the ways in which the farms can improve community health and resilience. Additionally, the Coordinator will regularly support the Farm Manager in the day-to-day farming operations on both farms. This may include seeding, planting, weeding, or harvesting.

Responsibilities:

- Perform organic farming duties under the direction of the farm manager such as planting, weeding, pest management, and harvesting (estimated to be about 20% of working time).
- Run employee and special group farm tours, education and promotional events by request (5-10 per month).
- Provide Spring Gardening 101 classes for employees (4-6, 1hr classes from Mid May-Mid June).
- Run summer camps with teaching kitchen 2-3 mornings a week for 2-5 weeks (Depending on hospital & teaching kitchen needs).
- Participate in Social Media events and postings for BMC upon request. Including educational videos & posts
- Maintain a BMC email account.



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- January-March provide online farm/gardening classes (1-4 per month) for employees and patients. Subject matter is at the discretion of the coordinator based on experience and interest from the hospital.
- Maintain and build partnerships with aligned community organizations.
- Meet hospital goals around connecting farm activities with the surrounding community.
- Maintain records of education and engagement activities for annual report to the hospital.
- Host patients from the teaching kitchen classes on the farm and support them in harvesting produce for their classes.

Qualifications

- Experience working and planning farm or nature-based education programs.
- Experience in organic farming or gardening.
- Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse group of people.
- Comfortable talking in front of large groups of youth and adults
- Not required but beneficial if candidates have a background in:
 - Community organizing
 - Rooftop farming
 - No till farming
 - Container farming
 - Beekeeping
- Must be fully vaccinated and boosted and stay compliant with all future hospital Covid guidelines

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to lift 30-40lbs
- Ability to withstand varying and extreme weather conditions (rain, heat, wind)
- Ability to withstand prolonged periods of kneeling, standing, walking.

Compensation

Hours: This is a 3/4 -time position averaged out across the year at 25 hours per week. During the growing season (April-November) the hours vary from 25-40 per week. In the off season (December-March) the average hours are 5-10 hrs per week.

Wage: Salary \$40,000-45,000 depending on experience.

Benefits: Health care, 401k matching

To Apply

Email resume and cover letter to john@highergroundrooftopfarm.com with the subject line indicating the position you are applying for.