



Rooftop Farm Manager 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 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 Manager will be responsible for all growing activities on the two BMC rooftop farms including, seeding, transplanting, harvesting, soil management, and pest management. The farm manager will also be responsible for running a weekly farmers market with the potential for a second farmers market at the new farm. The farm manager will support the Farm Education and Community Outreach Coordinator & assist them in the larger visioning of programs and community outreach.

This position is for an experienced grower with excellent communication skills who can represent the farm to the public and to the media. This farm is highly productive and therefore needs someone with experience in production farming, not gardening. This includes experience in successional crop plan for continued yields throughout the season. The farm manager will report to the Director of Support Services and work under the guidance and support of Higher Ground Farm, the managing body of the farms.

Responsibilities:

- Produce an annual crop plan for BMC's farms in accordance with BMC's food pantry, farmers markets, teaching kitchen and retail food service needs.
- Prepare and monitor annual farm budget
- Utilize organic farming practices, including fertilization and pest management, to grow produce.
- Grow all Spring seedlings and continued greenhouse seeding throughout the season.
- Provide regular management of the farms for consistent, quality harvests including seeding, transplanting, harvesting, irrigation, pruning, and pest management.
- Oversee soil fertility and soil testing.
- Manage irrigation and fertigation systems and irrigation scheduling.
- Maintain farm tools and equipment and ensure a clean, safe, and organized space.
- Dispose of plant and crop refuse responsibly via the on farm composting system.
- Manage farm labor performed by the Farm Education and Community Outreach Coordinator, 2-3 interns, and volunteer groups.



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- Maintain records of harvests for each farm by item and by weight.
- Run weekly lunchtime farmers market in hospital mid June-mid Sept.
- Communicate with the hospital's support services department, food service and food pantry staff as needed.
- Create and share end of season report to Higher Ground and the hospital.
- Participate in monthly meetings with Higher Ground Farm.
- Participate in Social Media events and postings for BMC upon request.
- Maintain a BMC email account.
- Support the Farm Education and Community Outreach Coordinator as needed on classes, events & outreach.

Qualifications

- All applicants must have at least 2 years of experience managing an organic, production oriented farm.
- Minimum 3 years of experience in organic farming.
- Thorough understanding and experience in managing:
 - Crop planning
 - Successional planting
 - Pest management
 - Soil fertility
- Experience managing farm laborers including interns and volunteer groups.
- Comfortable talking in front of large groups of youth and adults
- Not required but beneficial if candidates have a background in:
 - 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 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 25-45 per week. In the off season (December-March) the average hours are 1-5 hrs per week .

Wage: Salary \$50,000-\$55,000 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.