



SyRAP Farm and Program Development Intern **RISE**



Regional Internship Program: Summer 2024 *Fink Career Development Program*

Organization Overview: RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment) promotes self-sufficiency through employment, education, social support, and economic independence for members of the refugee and immigrant communities in Onondaga, Erie and Oswego counties. SyRAP (Syracuse Refugee Agricultural Program) is a program of RISE that aims to achieve this goal by providing the agricultural resources needed to grow culturally appropriate food in Central New York. For the second season, approximately 20 New American farmers and their families will be growing produce at RISE's 180-acre farm property in Lacona, NY. Each year, SyRAP provides farmers with farming supplies, transportation, and relevant training in small-scale diversified agriculture, farm safety, and business planning topics. Over time, farmers move towards a more hands-off model with increased agency over their production. Farmers currently bring most produce home to their direct communities, but also have the option of selling produce through local vendors/markets. SyRAP also has a series of community gardens on the Northside of Syracuse and a goat farm apprenticeship program operated out of Tully, NY, though these programs will not be the focus of the internship.

Internship Description: The SyRAP Farm and Program Development Intern will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about farming practices, communication, and program planning in non-profit settings while contributing significantly to the SyRAP mission. The intern will be responsible for the tasks outlined below, but there is flexibility for the intern to apply their specific interests and/or skills to a project. This intern will be directly supervised by the Agriculture Program Coordinator/Educator, but will also work closely with the Farm Manager, and Assistant Program Coordinator.

- *Farming Responsibilities:*
 - Assist Farm Manager in the planning and maintenance of a demonstration garden for training and harvest share supplementation purposes
 - Provide general support to program farmers as needed including weeding beds, planting/transplanting, adjusting drip irrigation, washing produce, preparing Harvest Share boxes, etc.
 - Maintain consistent harvest records by weighing produce, keeping harvest record log, and periodically inputting data into an online spreadsheet
 - Develop future farm projects related to sustainable agriculture (e.g., perennial plantings, hedgerows, etc.)
 - Various farm tasks, as assigned by supervisor
- *Communications Responsibilities:*
 - Take high quality photos/videos of farm activities to be used in Newsletters, on social media, websites, etc. and write posts for the social media accounts
 - Help identify outlets for expanding produce market sales, or work on projects intended to improve sales in current outlets
 - Research relevant funding opportunities for the program and assist in writing local/small grants
 - Various communication tasks, as assigned by supervisor

Qualifications: Passion for learning about farming and food systems among Syracuse refugee and immigrant

communities; Enjoys working outside in all sorts of weather conditions; Strong interpersonal and writing communication skills; Transportation to get to and from the farm/office; Openness to learn new skills quickly; Familiarity with social media, excel, and newsletter communication; Ability to follow through independently on assigned tasks; Flexibility with tasks based on pressing needs, weather, and emerging issues; Good attitude to contribute to work of a mission-driven organization.

Additional Internship Information:

- Internship period: June 5 – August 18 (flexibility available)
- Approximate hours per week: 30 (330 hours total)
- Internship location: 3 farm days, 1 office day each week
 - Farm located at 136 Wart Rd, Lacona, NY 13083
 - Office days located at 710 Kirkpatrick Street, Syracuse, NY 13208 (Northside), 302 Burt Street, Syracuse, NY 13202 (Southside), or from home, depending on the week
- On days that the intern is at the farm, 1 hr/day of ‘work time’ will be incorporated in as commuting time, as the farm requires a longer commute. Options for carpool to the farm are typically available.
- As a non-profit/government organization, this internship stipend is completely funded through the ESF Career Development Program; the hourly wage for this position is \$15 per hour (\$5,000 total stipend).

Interested in applying? [Regional Internship Program Application](#)