

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

K-State Research and Extension – Rural Grocery Initiative

About:

Rural grocery stores are anchor businesses in rural communities: they provide critical access to healthy food, offer significant economic benefits, and serve as gathering spaces where community members can connect. As such, the loss of rural grocery stores threatens not only the health of local citizens, but also the very existence of rural communities.

In 2007, the Rural Grocery Initiative (RGI) was established to help address the loss of rural grocery stores. Housed within K-State Research and Extension, RGI aims to sustain locally owned rural grocery stores to enhance community vitality and improve access to healthy foods. It does so by identifying, developing, and sharing resources that support grocers and rural communities.

To learn more, visit www.ruralgrocery.org.

Position Overview:

The Graduate Assistant (GA) position is an opportunity for a self-motivated, resourceful, experienced, and committed master's or Doctoral graduate students to bring creative energy and vision to a comprehensive food systems program at Kansas State University. The ideal candidate will have broad experience in or hold an undergraduate (and possibly Master's) degree in fields related to food access, food systems, and/or community development. This candidate must be committed to issues of social justice and community engagement. This is a position that will work with an interdisciplinary team, with the opportunity to employ a variety of applied and community-based research methods.

The GA will support the staff and work of the Rural Grocery Initiative and Kansas Healthy Food Initiative through research, programming, evaluation, and outreach.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with research around healthy food access and rural grocery operations
- Assist with editing and preparation of manuscripts, reports, grant applications, fact sheets, presentations, and other publications
- Conduct literature reviews
- Collect and analyze data related to healthy food access and rural grocery
- Attend relevant RGI and KHFI meetings
- Conduct regular scans of web content connected to rural food access identifying critical issues, trends, and developments relating to rural healthy food access
- Assist staff with the development of content for programs, workshops, seminars, and other professional opportunities
- Assist in the facilitation and execution of events as needed
- Other duties as assigned by supervisor

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in a field related to food systems, healthy food access, food justice and/or community development. All disciplinary backgrounds are eligible, including but not limited to rural sociology, community development, agricultural economics, public health, or nutrition.

- Full-time graduate status at Kansas State University.
- Experience in research and methodologies related to food systems, healthy food access, food justice and/or community development, which could include but is not limited to qualitative methods, statistical methods, mixed methods, evaluation metrics, and/or community-based learning methods.
- Demonstrated resourcefulness, self-motivation, and ability to problem-solve and think critically.
- Ability to self-direct and balance multiple projects simultaneously and to easily shift between working independently and as part of a team.
- Demonstrated strong verbal, written, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to effectively and diplomatically engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholder groups, such as academic faculty, community partners, and organizational stakeholders.
- Organizational skills and strong attention to detail.
- High degree of knowledge of and comfort with using technology in completing job requirements, including Microsoft Office suite, online search, file-sharing, and phone/web conferencing systems.
- Abilities in web design, social media, photo editing, and Adobe InDesign are also preferable, but not required.
- Available to travel throughout the state and occasionally within the US, including overnight, and possession of a valid, current state driver's license.

Requirements:

The appointment is 20 hours per week for 9 months (August 2022 – May 2023). Those planning to be graduate students at Kansas State University for the 2022-2023 academic year are encouraged to apply. If selected, you must provide evidence of acceptance in the Kansas State University Graduate School and enrollment in a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester. This position may include in-person and/or remote work and may involve travel. A background check is required prior to finalizing an offer of employment.

Compensation and Benefits:

This position offers a \$30,000 stipend for the 2022-2023 academic year. The position meets requirements to qualify for resident rate tuition and graduate student health insurance. [Modest professional development budget available.](#)

To Apply:

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. However, for best consideration, submit a letter of interest, a current resume, and the name and contact information for three professional references by August 12, 2022, to rgi@ksu.edu with the subject line, "RGI Graduate Position Interest" or submit online through the posting on handshake.