



---

**About This Role:**

Central Topeka Grocery Oasis (CTGO) and Shawnee County Farm and Food Council Advisory Council (SCFFAC), in partnership with K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems, is seeking a Local Food Fellow to complete the local food system project centered around the objectives of SCFFAC and CTGO, specifically CTGO's plans to open a new grocery store and SCFFAC's mission to improve the Shawnee County food system.

This flexible, part-time or full-time, fellowship will run from June 3 – September 30, 2024. Length of fellowship depends on the fellow's needs. They may begin as early as June 3 and must complete the 320 hours no later than September 30.

**Responsibilities:**

Projects the Fellow will explore and work on are listed in order of priority:

- Research the feasibility of a of a licensed kitchen at the store where hot, prepared meals would be available for purchase – Utilize Washburn Tech as a partner in this effort
- Explore cultural foods that would serve this area and ratio of foods appropriate for this community, which consists of 18% Black residents, 25% Hispanic residents. The area served is quite culturally diverse.
- Strengthen social media presence and contribute to website content.
- Survey wrap around services offered by community agencies such as GraceMed, local health department and local library which include food security measures, and other social services. Begin to build partnerships with previously stated agencies.
- Research potential grants to fund both the store in general and various specific needs
- Research local farmers markets, growers and producers to assess potential for incorporating local foods in the store.
- Complete final report to be submitted to K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems Program Coordinator before finishing fellowship time period.

**Location:**

This is a hybrid remote and in-office position. Office location: United Way of Kaw Valley, 1527 SW Fairlawn Rd. Topeka, KS 66604.

**Why Join Us:**

The Local Food Systems Fellow will have the opportunity to contribute to the work of Central Topeka Grocery Oasis and Shawnee County Farm and Food Advisory Council, two entities fighting for better, more equitable food access. In 2016 the Central Topeka Dillons' grocery located at 1400 SW Huntoon Ave. closed with only three weeks notice. It was located on a block where a grocery had provided service to moderate-low-income residents, resulting in a food desert where a grocery had served the community for the previous eighty-nine years. CTGO works diligently to restore the many benefits and community assets lost when the Central Topeka Dillons closed. SCFFAC helps in advising a variety of entities on ways in which their partnership and influence could improve the food system in

Shawnee County, including the area affected by the closing of the Central Topeka Dillons. For more information on CTGO: <https://www.centraltopekagro.com/>.

For more information about K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems, please visit <http://www.kansaslocalfoods.org/>

**We Support Diversity and Inclusion:**

Kansas State University embraces diversity and inclusion. The university actively seeks individuals who foster a collegial environment and cooperative interactions with coworkers, students, and others. The University is dedicated to promoting the **Principles of Community**.

**What You'll Need to Succeed:**

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Requires a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals, groups and through mass media and social media.
- Possess computer skills including email, internet, and Microsoft Office Programs.
- Must have reliable transportation. Mileage will be reimbursed.
- Attend monthly Central Topeka Grocery Oasis meetings, fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Located at Stout Elementary building.
- Ability to work independently and within partnerships. Initiating partnerships may be required. Attention to detail is necessary.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Experience working with individuals, groups, and co-workers to accomplish individual and/or group goals, as evidenced by previous leadership roles.
- Experience working with diverse audiences.
- Some college experience, coursework related to local food systems: social sciences, public health, and/or business.

**Other Requirements:**

- Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States at the time of employment.

**How to Apply:**

Please submit the following documents to Amanda Lindahl, Local Food System Program Coordinator: [alindahl@ksu.edu](mailto:alindahl@ksu.edu) AND Sarah Karns, Live Well Shawnee County Director: [skarns@uwkavvalley.org](mailto:skarns@uwkavvalley.org).

1. Letter of interest
2. Resume

**Screening of Applications Begins:**

March 18, 2024

**Stipend Amount:**

\$5,440 for the 320-hour fellowship project

**Equal Employment Opportunity:**

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.