**AMI Farm and Food System Fellowship**

**Partner Organization Application for Community Action Year Fellow**

Allegheny Mountain Institute (AMI) is an educational non-profit organization with the mission to cultivate healthy communities through food and education. AMI’s tuition-free, 18-month educational Fellowship trains and empowers individuals to become teachers and advocates for a food system that is socially, environmentally, and economically just. Selected Fellows spend six months in experiential, residential Farm and Food Study at AMI’s Allegheny Farm Campus, followed by a Community Action Year, applying their training in partnership with AMI and regional non-profit organizations.

AMI partners with non-profit organizations within the Counties of Augusta, Highland, and Rockingham, VA, to offer work placement sites for Community Action Year Fellows (January-December 2023). Past Community Action Year work has included a variety of farm and food projects, including but not limited to:

* Growing and distributing diversified crops on a market-style farm
* Implementing educational sessions for innovative health care
* Maintaining school or community gardens
* Integrating and teaching food and ecological literacy into school activities
* Supporting farmers markets and direct-to-consumer programs
* Developing distribution channels for increased access to healthy foods
* Supporting community garden and food coalition activities
* Mentoring the next cohort of Fellows

Through AMI’s placement process (August-September 2022), AMI provides partner organizations with passionate, trained Community Fellows to contribute to organizational projects for one year and contributes toward the Community Action Year Fellow’s salary and related costs.

Through the combination of community partner organization work and ongoing education, the goals for Community Fellows are to:

1. **Grow Food.** Fellows gain a full second season of experience, confidence, and skills in agricultural methods that enhance the health of our ecosystem.
2. **Build Community.** With the support of their cohort,Fellows reflect upon their own agency, develop a sense of social responsibility, build interpersonal connections, and find equitable and collaborative pathways for change within their community.
3. **Transform the Food System.** Fellows support partners and their goals for community health and food system change, utilizing and developing their skills, passions, and interests in the process.

AMI provides Community Action Year Fellows with continuing education, professional development, mentoring, and support. As part of this, **Community Fellows spend up to 20% of their work time in Fellowship related work**, including:

* Continuing Education and Professional Development (18-26 hours per month)
* Reporting, feedback, and evaluation (1-2 hours per month)
* Writing two blogs (1-3 hours per blog)
* Creating and teaching an educational workshop (8-10 hours per workshop)
* Providing ambassadorship and fundraising assistance (3-8 hours per year)
* Participating in the Fellow Equity Committee (optional, 4 hours per month)

During this year, Community Fellows are considered AMI employees and follow all guidelines, policies, and rules for conduct and care of the Allegheny Mountain Institute.

***AMI partners with organizations that are able and willing to meet the following criteria:***

* Are a non-profit working in the AMI impact region of Augusta, Highland, or Rockingham Counties, VA, and have a mission that supports food-based community development, local agriculture, health, and/or environmental sustainability.
* Incorporate at least 8 hours per week of garden or farm work time to reinforce these skills (can be met through a split position with work on an AMI Farm site).
* Commit to using sustainable, regenerative and/or organic farm practices and prohibit the use of toxic substances and/or hazardous materials that may drift to the worksite.
* Provide an accessible, supportive on-site supervisor that will supervise the Community Fellow’s daily work responsibilities, including regular work check-ins, timesheet approval, and review and discussion of monthly reporting documents, 90-day, and end-of-year evaluations.
* Provide a $12,000 contribution to AMI for participating in Community Action Year. This equals approximately 40% of the cost of the salary and insurance for a Fellow, with AMI providing the remaining 60% of costs. This amount may be prorated for Fellows working less than 40 hours per week. Organizations that are unable to make the total contribution are encouraged to apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Acknowledge AMI as a supporting organization in marketing materials and communications channels, including its website, social media, and print publicity.

Interested organizations may apply to host a Fellow by completing the following application form and sending to **kim@amifellows.org**. Applications are considered on a rolling basis for 2023 placements until **June 25, 2022**.

More information about AMI and the Community Action Year and Farm and Food System Fellowship is available at: [www.amifellows.org/farm-and-food-system-fellowship](http://www.amifellows.org/farm-and-food-system-fellowship)

**COMMUNITY ACTION YEAR PARTNER APPLICATION**

**Name of Organization:**

**Where is your organization located?**

*Please note that AMI services Highland and Augusta Counties to concentrate its impact in the region. At this time, organizations beyond these counties will not be considered.*

□ Augusta County, VA

□ Highland County, VA

□ Rockingham County, VA

**What is your organization’s non-profit status?**

*Please note that only partners with non-profit designation may participate. AMI does not provide Fellows to for-profit businesses.*

□ *501(c)3*

□ Other, please list:

**Primary Contact Name:**

**Title:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Organization Address:**

**Anticipated Supervisor (if different):**

**Name:**

**Email:**

Please answer the following questions to help us understand how a Fellow would support your work.

1. **What is your mission? How does it support AMI’s mission of building healthy communities through food and education?**
2. **Please describe your organization’s work, the need for an AMI Fellow(s) and the amount of Fellow work hours desired per week.**
3. **What work do you anticipate a Fellow doing? How does it correlate with the Fellowship goals to grow food, build community, and transform the food system? Details of these goals are listed on page 1.**

1. AMI Fellows need accessible supervisors to be successful in their roles. **Who would supervise the Fellow(s)? Please describe their ability to commit to this role.**
2. AMI requires Community Action Year Fellows to solidify their skills through 8 hours of gardening/farming per week. If you do not have a garden on-site, the Fellow(s) may be able to fulfill this work through the equivalent amount of time working on an AMI Farm. **How will the AMI Fellow(s) fulfill this requirement at your organization?**
3. AMI expects Partner Organizations to make a $12,000 contribution for participating in the Community Action Year Fellowship program and considers organizations that are unable to make the total contribution on a case-by-case basis. This contribution is prorated for part-time Fellows. **Please describe your ability to make this contribution.**
4. AMI provides one-year Fellowship placements and cannot guarantee a Fellow placement for subsequent years. **How will you ensure continuity of the work if a Fellow is not placed at your organization in the following year?**
5. **Is there any additional information you would like to provide?**