**AMI Farm and Food System Fellowship**

**Community Action Year Partner Organization Application**

Allegheny Mountain Institute (AMI) is an educational non-profit organization with the mission to cultivate healthy communities through food and education. AMI’s flagship program is tuition-free, 18-month, educational Fellowship that fully sponsors, 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 2022). Past Community Action Year work has included a variety of farm and food work, including but not limited to:

* Supporting farm-to-hospital farm and integration of innovative health care practices
* Supporting farm-to-school projects and managing school gardens
* Advocating for the connections between food and health
* Teaching gardening or farming skills to children and/or adults
* Growing diversified crops on a market-style farm
* Supporting farmers markets and direct-to-consumer programs
* Coordinating food for donation and food access programs
* Mentoring the next cohort of Fellows

Through AMI’s placement process (August-September 2021), AMI provides partner organizations with passionate, trained individuals for one year and contributes approximately $31,000 for the Community Action Year Fellow’s salary and related costs. AMI also provides Community Action Year Fellows with continuing education, professional development, mentoring, and support.

Through a combination of work with a community partner organization 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 partners with organizations that are able and willing to meet the following criteria:***

* Be 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 gardening skills (can be met through a split position with work on an AMI Farm site). Please note that AMI Community Action Year Fellows also participate in up to 3 days (24 hour) of continuing education per month.
* Commit to using sustainable, regenerative and/or organic farm practices and prohibit 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 review of timesheets, monthly reporting documents, and 90 day and end of year evaluations.
* Provide a $10,000 contribution to AMI for participating in Community Action Year. This amount may be prorated for Fellows working less than 40 hours per week. Organizations that are unable to make the full contribution will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Acknowledge AMI as a supporting organization in marketing materials and communications channels, including on its website, social media, and in public relations and publicity.

Interested organizations may apply to host a Fellow by completing the following application form and sending to **jessa@amifellows.org**. Applications are considered on a rolling basis for 2022 placements until **June 25, 2021**.

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

**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 the work of your organization, 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.**
4. **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.**
5. **AMI requires Community Action Year Fellows to solidify their gardening skills through the equivalent of 8 hours per week. How will the AMI Fellow(s) fulfill this requirement at your organization? (Please note that 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.)**
6. **AMI expects Partner Organizations to make a $10,000 contribution for participating in the Community Action Year Fellowship program and considers organizations that are unable to make the full contribution on a case-by-case basis. Please describe your ability to make this contribution.**
7. **AMI provides one-year Fellowship placements and cannot guarantee a Fellow placement for subsequent years. How will you ensure continuity of the Fellow’s work in the case that a Fellow is not provided to the organization in the following year?**
8. **Is there any additional information you would like to provide?**