

**Position Title:** Research Intern – School Garden Baseline Research and Implementation Plan

**Position Location and Logistics:**

- Office location will be in Jackson County, 1715 Lansing Ave. Jackson MI
- Personal transportation/mobility necessary.
- The work is tentatively planned for sixteen 25 hour weeks (400 hours total) beginning in May 2014 and running through August 2014; some flexibility may exist.
- Salary \$11.25 per hour

**Position Functions:**

- Assist Extension Educator, other organization's staff and community volunteers in creating survey instruments and research parameters
- Conduct significant research on current usage of school gardens as teaching tools and
- Draw conclusions based on data collected and develop an implementation strategy from it.
- Assist with the development and delivery of presentations
- Assist with outreach activities conducted by Extension Educators, community professionals and volunteers

**Desirable Skills and/or Experience:**

- Exceptional research skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use computer software programs.
- Ability to effectively interact with both community residents and professionals
- Ability to manage the demands of multiple project segments and deadlines
- Ability to work independently

**Position Background:**

Municipalities and County Governments are increasingly looking to innovative programs to improve health outcomes community wide. One such innovative program is introducing school gardening curricula to improve health and wellbeing throughout the community. School gardens have been shown to improve nutritional and physical activity outcomes as well as create a greater awareness of where the food we eat comes from.

MSU Extension in Jackson County is seeking an intern to create a baseline evaluation of adoption of school gardens in Jackson County. The intern will quantify current school garden programs, determine the extent to which each program penetrates school curriculum, assess those teachers who are interested, but lack the tools or expertise, then develop an implementation strategy based on the findings. If the intern wishes, they

may observe or participate in delivery of one garden program currently established as part of their internship.

**Please send Resume and Cover letter to:**

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**For Specific Information about this Internship Contact:**

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