



KEEP GROWING DETROIT

76 E. Forest Ave. Detroit, MI 48201

(313) 757-2635

keepgrowingdetroit.org

Early Childhood Garden Development and Family Engagement Specialist

Location: 76 E. Forest Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

Salary: \$16-\$20 per hour based on experience with medical and dental insurance available after 90 days

Schedule: Hourly employee, 35 hours per week on average, including some evenings and weekends

Area of Focus: Food Systems, Urban Agriculture, Early Childhood, Community Organizing, and Education

Organizational Description:

Keep Growing Detroit (KGD) exists to promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiters are grown by residents within the city's limits. Our strategic approach to achieving our mission includes work that fosters relationships to food, grows the knowledge of food and farming, builds leadership skills and capacity within Detroit's urban agriculture community, and changes the value of food while developing community assets. To these ends, our organization operates a number of nationally recognized programs including the Garden Resource Program (GRP), which supports a network of 1,500 urban gardens and farms and Grown in Detroit (GID), which provides more than 60 urban gardeners with opportunities to sell the fruits and vegetables they grow at local market outlets. Our staff also operates the Plum Street Market Garden, a 1.75-acre urban farm and teaching facility located in the heart of downtown Detroit.

Position Description:

Keep Growing Detroit is seeking an Early Childhood Garden Development and Family Engagement Specialist. This staff member will work with KGD's garden development team to integrate garden-based activities into early childhood learning environments, including at school, at home and in the community. The focus of this position includes supporting gardens at Early Childhood Centers and schools, working with children birth to eight, and participating in community outreach activities to connect parents with resources to grow gardens, increase access to healthy food for their families, and help children develop lifelong healthy habits during this critical developmental stage. The Early Childhood Garden Development and Family Engagement Specialist works closely with and reports to the Co-Director of Basic Programs.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist with activities at early childhood gardens in schools and in the community. With these gardens, coordinate new garden development support and requests for technical assistance including seasonal field support such as site visits, soil tests and capacity building and construction.
- Assist participating early childhood center gardens with basic gardening and age-appropriate curriculum and activity support including training and engaging parents with these activities.
- Assist with outreach and engagement activities at our farm, farmers' markets, and community events to engage families with young children in KGD programming including coordinating monthly Family Farm Fun Days, planning and implementing age-appropriate activities during

outreach events, and assisting with customer engagement to families using EBT and WIC benefits at farmers markets.

Qualifications:

- Qualified candidates **MUST** have reliable transportation. Work-related mileage will be reimbursed.
- The ideal candidate will have +3years of community organizing, agriculture or early childhood education work.
- Experience working children ages birth to five, including familiarity with early childhood key developmental stages and basic nutrition education.
- Experience with growing vegetable gardens, ideally in a community or school garden setting.
- Interest and familiarity with issues relating to the City of Detroit, local food, food access, and sustainable agriculture, and a genuine appreciation of the urban environment.
- Strong organizational and written/verbal communication skills.
- Experience supervising staff, volunteers and working with diverse communities.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to lift 40 pounds.
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel required.
- Ability to speak Spanish highly desirable, but not required.

How to Apply:

Please send email of your resume and cover letter to Lindsay Pielack at lindsay@keepgrowingdetroit.org or mail to 76 E. Forest, Detroit, MI 48201. Use the job title as the subject line. Only potential interviewees will be contacted. For more information, please visit our website at www.keepgrowingdetroit.org or call 313-757-2635.

Keep Growing Detroit is an Equal Opportunity Employer.