

Rural Grocery Initiative Seeks Student Employee

About

Rural grocery stores are anchor businesses in rural communities: they provide critical access to healthy food, offer significant economic benefits, and serve as gathering spaces where community members can connect. As such, the loss of rural grocery stores threatens not only the health of local citizens, but also the very existence of rural communities.

In 2007, the Rural Grocery Initiative (RGI) was established to help address the loss of rural grocery stores. Housed within K-State Research and Extension, RGI aims to sustain locally owned rural grocery stores to enhance community vitality and improve access to healthy foods. It does so by identifying, developing, and sharing resources that support grocers and rural communities.

To learn more, visit www.ruralgrocery.org.

Description of job responsibilities

RGI is hiring a part-time student for Summer 2022 to develop informational resources that support rural grocery stores. In particular, the student will be deeply engaged in researching and writing roughly six case studies that explore various grocery ownership models and rural grocery best practices. This will entail interviewing rural grocers in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota (and possibly other states). In this role, the student will create interview guides, assist with grocer interviews, design a case study template, write case study drafts in collaboration with RGI staff. Some paid travel will be required for this position.

By highlighting real-world innovative solutions for sustaining rural grocery operations, these case studies will enhance the Rural Grocery Initiative's technical assistance offerings to support communities across the nation.

Primary Tasks

- Research rural grocery ownership models (e.g. nonprofit, cooperative, etc.) and best practices
- Draft grocer interview guides
- Design standardized case study format and template
- Assist RGI staff in conducting interviews by asking questions and taking notes
- Transcribe grocer interviews
- Draft case studies
- Travel to conduct site visits of grocery stores

Qualifications - Required

- Strong writing skills
- Time management to meet deadlines
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work independently, identify problems, and find solutions
- Ability to work with others

- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Qualifications - Preferred

- Experience and/or interest in rural food access and/or healthy food access
- Experience and/or interest in qualitative research methods
- Experience using Adobe programs such as InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.

Dates: The start date for this position is mid-May with the possibility to begin sooner. The position is available through Summer 2022 and may be extended into the Fall Semester depending on interest and performance.

Hours: 15-20 hours per week (flexible based on other academic commitments)

Hourly Rate: \$13/hour

Deadline: Position open until filled

Submit resume, names of three professional references, one writing sample, and cover letter on [Handshake](#), or email materials to rgi@ksu.edu.

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