



## Hiring Graduate Research Assistant to support KSRE Healthy and Rural Food Access Programs

*K-State Research and Extension is home to two of the state's rural and healthy food access programs including the Rural Grocery Initiative ([www.ruralgrocery.org](http://www.ruralgrocery.org)) and the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative ([www.kansashealthyfood.org](http://www.kansashealthyfood.org)).*



### Organizational Background

In 2007, faculty and Extension professionals at Kansas State University launched the Rural Grocery Initiative (RGI). Since that time, this initiative has pursued five goals including: (1) identify challenges facing rural grocery stores (grocery retail in communities with 2,500 population or less), (2) develop responses to those challenges, (3) identify and detail sustainable business models of grocer operation, (4) build virtual and face-to-face information networks for rural grocers, and (5) strengthen rural access to healthy foods.

In 2017, K-State faculty and professional staff joined with the Kansas Health Foundation, Network Kansas, IFF, and The Food Trust to launch the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative (KHFI). KHFI is a public-private partnership that aims to increase access to healthy food to improve the health and economic development of Kansans and their communities. KHFI provides technical assistance and financing to develop new or renovate healthy food retail in low-resource and underserved communities throughout Kansas. The program works to bridge informational and financing gaps faced by healthy food stakeholders and food retailers.

### Position Overview:

This Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) position is an opportunity for a self-motivated, resourceful, experienced, and committed M.A., M.S., or Ph.D. student to bring creative energy and vision to a comprehensive urban and rural food systems program at Kansas State University. The ideal candidate would have broad experience in or hold an undergraduate (and possibly Master's degree) in fields related to food access, food systems, and/or community development. This candidate must have a commitment to issues of social justice and community engagement. This is a position that will work with an interdisciplinary team, employing a variety of applied and community-based research methods.

This GRA position will support the staff and work of the Rural Grocery Initiative and Kansas Healthy Food Initiative through research and outreach. The GRA will be committed to 20 hours per work. This position may include in-person and/or remote work and may involve travel.

### Responsibilities:

- Assist with research around healthy food access and rural grocery operations
- Assist with editing and preparation of manuscripts, reports, grant applications, fact sheets, presentations, and other publications
- Conduct literature reviews
- Collect and analyze data
- Attend relevant RGI and KHFI meetings
- Conduct regular scans of web content connected to rural food access identifying critical issues, trends, and developments relating to rural healthy food access
- Assist staff with the development of content for programs, workshops, seminars, and other professional opportunities

- Assist in the facilitation and execution of events as needed
- Other duties as assigned by supervisor

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in a field related to food systems, healthy food access, food justice and/or community development. All disciplinary backgrounds are eligible, including but not limited to rural sociology, community development, agricultural economics, public health, or nutrition.
- Full-time graduate status at Kansas State University.
- Experience in research and methodologies related to food systems, healthy food access, food justice and/or community development, which could include but is not limited to qualitative methods, statistical methods, mixed methods, evaluation metrics, and/or community-based learning methods.
- Demonstrated resourcefulness, self-motivation, and ability to problem-solve and think critically.
- Ability to self-direct and balance multiple projects simultaneously and to easily shift between working independently and as part of a team.
- Demonstrated strong verbal, written, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to effectively and diplomatically engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholder groups, such as academic faculty, community partners, and organizational stakeholders.
- Organized with a strong attention to detail.
- High degree of knowledge of and comfort with using technology in completing job requirements, including Microsoft Office suite, online search, file-sharing, and phone/web conferencing systems.
- Abilities in web design, social media, photo editing, and Adobe InDesign are also preferable, but not required.
- Available to travel throughout the state and occasionally within the US, including overnight, and possession of a valid, current state driver's license.

**Compensation:**

\$25,000 for this 12-month GRA position. The \$25,000 stipend can be put toward tuition. This GRA position does not include a tuition waiver.

**Time Commitment:**

This position will be available from January 2021 through December 2021 with future funding (secured through July 2023) contingent on satisfactory performance evaluations. Position begins as early as January 25, 2021.

**To Apply:**

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. However, for best consideration, submit a letter of interest, a current resume, and the name and contact information for three references by December 1, 2020 to [khfi@ksu.edu](mailto:khfi@ksu.edu).



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.