**Position Title:** Community Partner  **Reports to:** Community Initiatives Manager

**Type**: Contract (20-32 hrs. per month) **Location:** Klickitat/Skamania Counties, WA
One year contract with option to renew

Northwest Harvest is Washington’s leading hunger relief agency – supporting a statewide network of 375 food banks, meal programs, and high-need schools. Focused on improving equity in our food system, Northwest Harvest believes everyone in Washington should have consistent access to nutritious food that feeds the body, mind, and spirit. In addition to making sure those who suffer from hunger are being fed, Northwest Harvest aims to shift public opinion, as well as impact institutional policies and societal practices that perpetuate hunger, poverty, and disparities in our state. Learn more at http://www.northwestharvest.org

**POSITION SUMMARY:**

As a Community Partner (CP) you will be responsible for learning the needs of the community as they relate to equitable access to food. As an extension of Community Initiatives, Community Partners share in the same outcomes, values, and goals as the Community Initiatives staff. Our **outcomes** are to 1) increase equitable food access through community identified solutions and to 2) improve equitable access to healthy, local foods for all community members. Our **central values** are to meet people where they are literally; build relationships slowly, stay committed, and respond as community needs arise; cultivate trust; and collaborate generously. Our **goals** are to center those with lived experience and to ensure we are always shifting power to communities while assisting in removing barriers to accessing food. We believe in a “facilitate, not lead” approach and hold ourselves accountable to the communities we work with.

The ideal person for this job is someone already doing similar work where either this is a natural extension of their work or this enables them to do work they haven’t been able to. Either way, the person must have the ability to add in some new work and responsibilities to their workdays. If you have questions about this position, please contact the Community Initiatives Manager Laura Titzer at laurat@northwestharvest.org.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Primary duties are centered around increasing and creating equitable food access outside of the traditional emergency food system through local and coordinated efforts. Community Partners collaborate across sectors with individuals and organizations on approaches that increase food access through equitable means.

**Tasks**

* Build, expand and/or deepen relationships with individuals and organizations by:
	+ Fostering a core group of community stakeholders;
	+ Building alliances;
	+ Promoting solidarity with racial/cultural groups and organizations.
* Increase coordination, resource sharing, and connections by:
	+ Research and locate current initiatives and coalitions to engage in;
	+ As needed, coordinate meetings with community members in the identification, design and development of community needs; and
	+ As needed, engage in power analysis/power mapping.
* Participate in two monthly calls each month with Northwest Harvest staff and other Community Partners.
* Invoice for work on biweekly or monthly basis.

 **Equity and Inclusion**

* Demonstrate the initiative to learn and enhance skills that promote anti-racism, cultural competency and an understanding of oppression and its impact.
* Participate in intentional learning efforts, including events relating to understanding and dismantling institutional racism and building cultural competency.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

A combination of real-life experience, education, and training listed below which provides an equivalent background per the work of this position.

* Knowledge and/or working experience of community food access programs and the non-profit sector;
* Meeting planning and facilitation skills to comfortably lead meetings;
* At ease meeting a variety of people and groups;
* Knowledge of Microsoft programs (Outlook, Access, Word, Excel).
* Able to speak multiple languages preferred such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Ethiopian or Somalian.

**ABILITY TO:**

* Understand individuals who have experienced poverty or food insecurity.
* Demonstrate interest and commitment to supporting equity and inclusion for members of historically marginalized groups including racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ populations and people living with disabilities.
* Analyze issues, synthesize information, make decisions and learn from mistakes.
* Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, including the ability to listen effectively.
* Ask questions to understand the merits of different approaches.

 **LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS:**
Valid Driver’s License.

**COMPENSATION:**This is a contract vendor. No benefits. Compensation is set at $23/hour.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:**Northwest Harvest (NWH) is committed to equal opportunity for all vendors, employees, and applicants.  NWH does not discriminate with regards to hiring, assignment, promotion or other conditions of staff employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, veteran status, disability, genetic information or any other status protected under local, state or federal law.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, upon request, reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of our positions*.*