

AGRICULTURE, LAND PRESERVATION & HOUSING RESEARCH INTERN



JOB DESCRIPTION

ABOUT RIFPC

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC) is an independent statewide network with a mission to promote a more equitable, accessible, economically vibrant, and environmentally sustainable food system. We cultivate partnerships, develop and implement high-impact projects, and advocate for good food policy. We center equity in our work, which touches all parts of the food chain – production, harvesting, processing, distribution, consumption/access, and waste management. We operate with a collaborative professional staff, over 200 engaged and diverse council members, and hundreds more stakeholders from across the Ocean State. More information about RIFPC can be found at www.rifoodcouncil.org.

The RI Food Policy Council seeks a part-time paid **Agriculture, Land Preservation, and Housing Research Intern**.

RI has the highest cost of farmland in the country. The RI Food Policy Council and organizations like the RI Land Trust Council, Land & Sea Together, American Farmland Trust and the Land Access Network, are working to ensure the need for housing in our state and the need to preserve land & increase local food production, are complimentary not in conflict with each other. To do this we want to further study how these policies are being handled in other states.

The primary objectives of the person in this role are to:

- Identify interconnections between housing and agricultural land preservation policy
- Build on the [research of the RI Land Trust Council](#) to get a full understanding of how RI and other states are addressing these issues
- Research zoning, housing requirements and other policies that effect this interconnection
- Deep dive into the funding mechanisms states are using to encourage land preservation and housing

The **Fundraising Research Intern** reports directly to the **Food, Climate & Environment Program Director for 10-15 hours per week at \$17.50 per hour**. Most work will be conducted remotely and most hours are flexible. There will be virtual meetings throughout the week, with weekly interaction with the Food, Climate & Environment Program Director. In-person meetings and events may occur at a rate

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of 1-2 per month. The start date is flexible, with work initiating in early January and continuing through the mid-May.

The ideal candidate for this position will be:

- **Interested in food systems and housing.** Someone who wants to understand how Rhode Island can increase investment in both housing and land preservation.
- **A person with a knack for data collection and basic analysis.** Someone who is confident compiling data, using spreadsheet formulas to run basic analysis, and knows when to ask questions or for assistance.
- **An accountable teammate.** Someone who manages time well, is highly organized, and can be counted on to work independently and cooperatively.
- **A good listener and an excellent writer.** Someone who is comfortable reaching out via phone and email to individuals in state agencies, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to collect data.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review state laws and regulations, diverse reports, articles, data sources, and other relevant documents related to the scope of work;
- Develop clear, consistent written summaries;
- Create Google Spreadsheets through a combination of collection methods including internet searches, email, and phone outreach;
- Interview primary sources as needed;
- Represent RIFPC enthusiastically and in a manner consistent with our mission and values when interacting with Council members and other stakeholders.

REQUIREMENTS

- Strong secondary research skills
- Experience with Google Sheets and navigating online data resources
- Comfortable with emailing and calling local, regional, national, and international agencies, nonprofits, and community based organizations
- Excellent active listening, verbal and written communication
- Experience with or coursework in municipal planning, food systems, housing, or data collection strongly preferred
- Knowledgeable of the Rhode Island and New England food and coastal systems preferred
- Located in Rhode Island or Massachusetts

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- At least 17 years of age
- A US Citizen, U.S. National, or Permanent Resident and able to provide documentation of citizenship
- Willingness to undergo a National Criminal History Background Check

Please note: We encourage applications from individuals who believe they possess the key competencies and can demonstrate ability to execute the responsibilities, even if you do not have every listed qualification/skill.

Individuals who want to apply should send a cover letter and resume to **jobs@rifoodcouncil.org** with “**Agriculture, Land Preservation, and Housing Research Intern**” in the subject line. Applications received before November 13, 2026 will be given preference.