



## Local Food Value Chain Program Manager

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### Statement of Duties

The Local Food Value Chain Program Manager will work with the RI Commerce Corporation's Director of Food Strategy and the RFSI project team at the RI Department of Environmental Management to manage and lead projects that are directly related to value chain activities which build resilience across the middle of the food supply chain. The Program Manager will have the opportunity to be part of a dynamic and cross-organizational team comprised of RI Commerce, the Department of Environmental Management, the Department of Health as well as external food system stakeholders and food industry partners.

### Position Functions

*The essential functions and duties listed below are intended only as an illustration of the various types of work that may be performed. The specific omission of specific statements of duties does not preclude them from the position if work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.*

### Essential Functions:

#### *Program Coordination (70%)*

- Assess supply chain needs and opportunities in the state to benefit agricultural and other food producers, expand product offerings for consumers, expand processing options and capacity, facilitate cooperative solutions to bottlenecks, and plan for best use to meet needs and build opportunities through awarded Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grants.
- Conduct “market matchmaking” to build value chain connections between buyers and suppliers in Rhode Island and the region.
- Identify mid-supply chain barriers to the RI local food system (processing, aggregation, distribution) and conduct an ongoing needs assessment of the local food system supply chain across the State.
- Leverage the current and develop the soft infrastructure, such as relationships, organizations, etc, needed to complement the hard infrastructure outlined in infrastructure grants.
- Provide innovative, yet practical, planning for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution of food.
- Meet regularly with in-state and regional value chain coordinators to identify soft and hard infrastructure to support local food channels.
- Catalyze innovative solutions to create competitive advantages for RI local food producers to be able to compete against traditional supply chain players.

#### *Program Assistance & Outreach (30%)*

- Provide business assistance, including business plan development for processed food products, strategic planning assistance, and distribution and supply chain innovation.
- Serve as a point of contact for middle of the supply chain entities for market development.
- Develop and/or facilitate general informational websites, webinars, conferences, trainings, plant tours, and field days.

### Core Competencies:

- **Project management, organizational skills, and attention to detail:** The ability to ensure a multi-stakeholder team's work is accomplished in service of overall goals. Strong attention to detail, follow-up and organizational skills. Ability to manage multiple competing priorities in a fast-paced work environment.
- **Communication:** Write clearly and concisely. Demonstrate strong oral communication skills with the ability to speak convincingly and listen openly.
- **Strategic thinking:** The ability to look at the whole picture, understand the impact of each critical piece, and articulate implications and potential solutions.
- **Initiative:** Willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges as they arise, spearhead activities to foster connections and activate projects. Desire to grow in responsibility and authority, in a team-based, collaborative environment.
- **Innovative:** Seeks to provide creative solutions to challenges in work.

### Preferred Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree preferred with preference for a degree in food & agriculture, sustainable food systems, business management, and/or supply chain logistics.
- 3-5 years relevant professional experience and a demonstrated level of success related to local supply chain coordination.
- Stakeholder interaction and experience, particularly showing the ability to develop and maintain relationships with professionals at all levels.
- Understanding of state/local government, community development and/or local and regional food systems.
- Self-motivated, creative, organized and committed to organizational success.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- Ability to travel occasionally within the Northeast region.

***This role is funded through a federal grant for a two-year term. The term may be extended contingent on continued funding.***

*Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is an at-will employer; no employment contracts exist.*

*The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (the 'Corporation') is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, non-disqualifying physical or mental disability, national origin, veteran status or any other basis covered by applicable law. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business need. The Corporation will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on any of these characteristics.*

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To be considered for this position, please apply at:

<https://secure.yourpayrollhr.com/ta/co8056.careers?ShowJob=638109889>