



Job Description: Community Researcher Hillside Foodways Black History Project

Role Title: Community Researcher

Reports To: Food to Power Director of Education & Advocacy

Co-Supervisors: Colorado College professors Dr. Florencia Rojo & Dr. Cayce Hughes

Summary: Food to Power is seeking two passionate members of the Hillside community to join us for a stipended role in conducting a pilot research project regarding Black foodways in the neighborhood.

ABOUT FOOD TO POWER: Food to Power is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to cultivate a healthy, equitable food system in Colorado Springs through programs in fresh food access, food systems education, advocacy, urban farming, and community composting.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT: In partnership with Colorado College professors of Sociology, Food to Power will be conducting a pilot research project concerning the foodways history of the Hillside neighborhood, with a focus on longtime Black residents. We are recruiting community researchers for this project to interview 10 Black elders who have lived in Hillside in the 1960's-1990's to begin this project. Researchers will receive research skills training, engage with the history of gentrification and disinvestment in Black neighborhoods in Colorado Springs and how these patterns have changed the food landscape, and most importantly gain the opportunity to learn from elders in the neighborhood.

Pay and Type: \$1000 Stipend

Disbursed in 2 or 3 parts throughout the project

APPLICATION PROCESS

We are aiming to start training researchers the week of March 4th, 2024. **Applications submitted before February 16th at 12pm noon will be given priority, but please reach out if you need a later deadline!** If interested, please review the job description and send the following information to izzy@foodtopowerco.org in one email:

- **Resume**
- **Cover Letter:** Include your connection to the Hillside community, what excites you about this project, and what "food justice" means to you.

If you need assistance in the application process please do not hesitate to contact izzy@foodtopowerco.org with any questions, concerns, requests for accommodations, etc.

TIMELINE & SCHEDULE

The timeline for this research project pilot is as follows:

2/16: Research team begins reviewing applications

2/20 - 2/22: Interviews for Community Researcher applicants

3/1 - 3/9: Training for Community Researchers

Week of 3/11: Research team meeting & begin data collection

March-April: Schedule & conduct interviews with 5 Black elders while attending intermittent meetings with the research team to organize data

April-May: Complete data collection, intermittent meetings with the research team

June: Host an intergenerational community event to share about the research

Our research team is small (6 total including Community Researchers), and so the schedule for training, meetings, and interviews is somewhat adaptable to fit around other commitments such as work, school or childcare. However, it is expected that researchers make the time in their personal schedules to attend important public events such as the Black history teach-in in March and the community event in June.

ESSENTIAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The \$1000 stipend for this work has been calculated based on a rate of \$22/hour, with the expectation that **researchers are required to attend the following** in the months of March-June 2024:

- 8 hours of training by Colorado College sociology professors
- 2 hours attending a teach-in on local Black history
- 20 hours of interviewing, including the prep & process time expected for conducting 10 interviews with elders
- 15 hours of time meeting with the research team during the project. This may include additional training, discussing the direction & scope of the project, preparing for interviews, analyzing interview results, or preparing for the community event.

In addition to attending the training, interviews, and meetings as outlined above, researchers are expected to:

- Communicate proactively with the research team and research participants
- Treat research participants with respect and kindness
- Be responsible and organized with the data that is collected during this research project, including keeping any personal data from research participants confidential to the research team

If this research project grows in scale or if we are seeking to contract people for other parts of the project (e.g. transcription, writing, design), researchers may be offered additional pay/stipends for additional work, though this is not required.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Desired Skills:

- Detail-oriented and organized
- Comfortable communicating via email and using Google Suite (e.g. Google docs, spreadsheets, & slides)
- Comfortable communicating via phone
- Able to follow protocol when working independently
- Skilled in time management

Traits and Attributes

- You have a meaningful personal connection to the Hillside neighborhood
- You have a meaningful personal connection to the Black community in Colorado Springs
- You are drawn to the values of this research project and care about facets of structural racism such as gentrification
- You can navigate a diversity of personalities, places, and interpersonal dynamics
- You are adaptable and emotionally attuned to new or unexpected situations
- You are a good communicator and are able to ask for help or clarification when needed
- You are empathetic and practice active listening