

Garden Skills Coordinator – Ref. No. 19019
Community Food Centre / Community Health Centre
Permanent Part-Time



The Alex: Changing Health. Changing Lives. The Alex Community Health Centre is a not-for-profit organization that is changing how we look at health care in Calgary. Our health, housing and food programs support our most vulnerable neighbours, tackling tough health and social issues head-on. Using a multi-disciplinary team approach, we focus care on assessment, intervention and promotion of all aspects of health. We embrace a model of health care that is accessible, responsive and participatory. In addition to the Community Health Centre, we run a Seniors Health Centre, a Youth Centre, two Mobile Community Health Buses, one Dental Health Bus, four Housing First Programs, a Community Food Centre and Youth Law.

What we do and why we do it:

The Alex knows that to build a community of healthy individuals we need to tackle complex social issues. Together with Community Food Centres Canada, we envision a community where everyone has the means and knowledge necessary to access good, healthy food in a dignified way, and the ability and opportunity to be heard on the food issues that affect them. We envision a robust, diverse economy that sustains farmers and the land, and a social consensus that food is a key determinant of health and public good. The Alex Community Food Centre uses the power of food to bring people together to improve health, belonging, and social justice. Learn more at www.thealexafc.ca.

The Garden Skills Coordinator delivers programming that empowers community members to build skills and knowledge around gardening and its connection to healthy meals and nutrition. The ideal candidate is someone who is passionate about gardening and good food—and wants to contribute to ensuring that everyone has access to it. You possess strong gardening skills, experience facilitating diverse groups of community members, and a desire to use gardening and food as a way to build community.

What you will do:

Coordinate the garden and garden programming

- Research, design and deliver educational gardening programs prioritized for people living on low-incomes
- Create a safe, welcoming environment for a diversity of gardeners, from kids and youth to seniors
- Conduct outreach to encourage community participation in the programs
- Select, train, and manage volunteers
- Develop partnerships with other agencies, businesses, farmers etc. as required
- Oversee the maintenance of the garden and all associated equipment and facilities
- Coordinate an affordable community market, in partnership with external stakeholder(s)
- Develop and execute evaluation of garden programs

Participate as The Alex Community Food Centre team member

- Attend staff meetings; trainings; agency functions as appropriate
- Role model professional behavior and positive communication with participants, volunteers and partners
- Promote culture of health and safety within our space
- Represent The Alex and Community Food Centres Canada values in the community
- Contribute to communications through outlets such as social media and website

Complete other duties as required such as promotion and development of new community food programs based on community needs

What you bring:

- Post-secondary degree or diploma in a related field of study (horticulture, culinary, nutrition, social work)
- Three years of experience with program development, group facilitation, community outreach; ideally in gardening or urban agriculture
- Knowledge of food security and healthy food skills
- Experience working with volunteers and supervisory skills an asset
- Demonstrated ability to move people from knowledge to action; ability to inspire, teach and empower community members to engage in positive change
- Excellent group facilitation, interpersonal, communication and conflict resolution skills
- Experience working with marginalized people and people of diverse cultures and abilities in a community-based setting

Additional Assets:

- Experience working with children and youth
- Lived experience of, and/or commitment to issues of hunger, poverty, social justice
- Ability to speak a second language relevant to the Greater Forest Lawn neighborhood is an asset
- Food Safety certification

How to apply:

If you are as passionate as we are about making a difference in people's lives, please submit your resume to jobs@thealex.ca and be sure to include the job title and reference number in the subject line.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

For further information about The Alex and its programs, we encourage you to visit our website at www.thealex.ca