



## Food Policy & Civic Engagement Fellow

The Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance (SOFSa) hosts a paid Fellowship Program to cultivate the next generation of food systems leaders in Central New York. Rooted in SOFSa's commitment to food justice, health equity, and shared power, this program is designed for local college or graduate students, recent graduates, and emerging grassroots leaders who are ready to deepen their impact in our region.

**The Food Policy & Civic Engagement Fellow supports a dynamic portfolio of grassroots advocacy work including advancing key community-defined policy priorities. Learn more about SOFSa's advocacy work at: [www.syrfoodalliance.org/advocacy](http://www.syrfoodalliance.org/advocacy)**

We strongly encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented communities — especially Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other leaders who identify as members of the Global Majority — and from those who are committed to staying in Central New York for at least two years beyond the fellowship to continue building a more just, rooted, and resilient food system in Syracuse, Onondaga County, and Onondaga Nation.

**Schedule:** Part-time, 10-15 hrs/month, flexible schedule (hours may vary seasonally)

**Dates:** early July 2026 through December 2026, with possibility of extension

**Compensation:** \$18/hour paid monthly as a 1099 contractor

**Work Location:** 75% remote / 25% in-person activities throughout Syracuse

### Required Qualifications

- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Interest building relationships and collaborations across sectors
- Organizational skills and ability to manage projects including multiple partners
- Ability to take thorough notes to support progress
- Strong initiative and ability to work independently as well as alongside a team
- Dedication to tenets of racial and economic justice including those articulated in SOFSa's Equity and Justice statement (available [here](#))

### Desired Qualifications

- Local knowledge of the unique circumstances and assets of Syracuse, Onondaga County, and/or Onondaga Nation preferred
- Basic understanding of legislative, regulatory, and/or budgetary processes at the municipal, county, state, and/or federal level



### **Anticipated Activities**

1. Support relationship-building with representatives from municipal, county, and state government
2. Assist with coalition-building among statewide partners, including providing background support for at least four virtual meetings of partners per year
3. Collaboratively brainstorm, draft, research, refine, and build buy-in for SOFSA's Annual Policy Platform in alignment with [defined coalition process](#)
4. Explore additional opportunities to coordinate with local governmental entities to incorporate food systems into broader city- and countywide planning efforts
5. Support 2-3 events over the course of the year including the [Food Justice Gathering](#)
6. Develop and maintain advocacy and lobbying activity reporting processes for organization
7. Provide administrative and technical support for SOFSA's [Food Justice Policy & Action Committee](#)
8. Support fund development and grant-writing efforts to deepen SOFSA's civic engagement and movement-building work in alignment with its [2024-2029 Strategic Action Plan](#)
9. *If extended, participate in 1-2 advocacy visits to Albany, NY (likely in January and/or February)*

### **Application Process**

Interested candidates should apply at <https://wkf.ms/4d6DiR4>. The priority deadline to apply is June 1st, 2026 with interviews to take place in the 2-3 weeks thereafter. Please email [info@syrfoodalliance.org](mailto:info@syrfoodalliance.org) with any questions.