

ILLINOIS FOOD JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Values-Based Procurement & Organic Mapping Intern

Fall 2025



Internship Term: 10 weeks (September 16, 2025–December 2025)

Location: Hybrid – remote work with in-person travel across Illinois

Eligibility: This internship is open to applicants ages 18–24 **or** individuals enrolled in a **graduate** program (regardless of age). Applicants must be based in Illinois with a valid drivers license and able to travel for in-person site visits across the state.

Compensation: \$2,250 undergraduate / \$2,700 graduate stipend + travel reimbursement

About the Illinois Food Justice Alliance

The Illinois Food Justice Alliance is an intergenerational, multicultural, multi-sectoral coalition that utilizes and leverages our collective voice to bring forward a just food system in Illinois. Formed in 2015, our coalition has been working toward policy change, beginning with the successful passing of the Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP) Resolutions in the City of Chicago and Cook County. Led by the Chicago Food Policy Action Council, Illinois Stewardship Alliance and HEAL Food Alliance, our coalition is a living representation of the food system we want to see. Note: The [Illinois Stewardship Alliance](#) is IFJA's fiscal agent.

Position Overview

IFJA is seeking a motivated and curious graduate-level intern to assist with a statewide project to **map organic farms and food businesses** and deepen our coalition's understanding of the Illinois organic sector. This project will include **in-person site visits and interviews** with organic producers and business owners across the state. The intern will contribute to a living database and report that will help guide future procurement partnerships.

Key Responsibilities

1. Mapping & Data Collection (30%)

- Identify certified organic farms, food hubs, processors, and value-added businesses across Illinois.
- Develop a working database with geographic, demographic, and operational details.
- Conduct background research to supplement gaps in existing public data and directories.

2. Farm & Business Tours (25%)

- Coordinate and attend in-person visits to select organic farms and food businesses (travel support provided).
- Conduct interviews and gather stories that reflect producer goals, challenges, and potential for institutional partnerships.
- Capture photos, notes, and key insights from site visits to inform visual or written materials.

3. Stakeholder Engagement (20%)

- Support the development of a short survey or interview guide for organic producers.

- Assist in identifying values-aligned procurement opportunities through interviews and informal needs assessments.
- Help maintain respectful, values-driven relationships with farmers, business owners, and coalition partners.

4. Synthesis & Sharing (15%)

- Draft a report, map, or presentation to share findings with IFJA and its partners.
- Option to develop storytelling or outreach materials highlighting local organic producers and businesses.
- Organize findings in a clear, actionable format that can inform procurement strategies.

5. Policy & Strategic Support (10%)

- Provide light research support to the Good Food Purchasing Task Force.
- Identify strategies for integrating organic producers into institutional procurement pathways.
- Track models and case studies from other regions doing similar work at the intersection of food justice and organics.

Preferred Qualifications

- Interest in food systems, sustainable agriculture, or community-driven policy
- Strong research and communication skills (written and verbal)
- Comfortable traveling within Illinois and engaging with diverse stakeholders in person
- Experience with spreadsheets, mapping tools, or visual storytelling
- Commitment to racial equity and community-centered work

Learning Outcomes

The intern will gain:

- Firsthand exposure to Illinois' organic food sector
- Experience in community-based research, data mapping, and field interviewing
- Deeper understanding of values-based procurement and its role in food system transformation
- Opportunities to connect with leaders in farming, food business, and policy

To apply, please complete this [form](#).

The Illinois Food Justice Alliance (fiscally sponsored by the Illinois Stewardship Alliance) is committed to providing an environment of both fun and mutual respect, in which equal employment opportunities are available to all applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, physical and mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We believe diversity and inclusion in our staff is critical to our success in the workplace and across our state, and we seek to recruit, develop, and retain the most talented people from a diverse candidate pool.

This internship is funded by

