

Farmer to Farmer Mentorship Program

Application 2024

Program Description:

This is a space for growers, farmers, and earth stewards--centering BIPOC folks--to grow the web of collective power and solidarity amongst each other. Through skill building, resources sharing, and relationship cultivation we are creating a space for growers to have the necessary tools to shape our local food system.

We are looking for individuals who are committed to learning from each other, provide hands-on experience, and are open to traveling to farms. If you already have a working relationship with someone you can apply together. Also, mentors can apply to be mentees. If you are applying for both, you will need to submit both a mentee and mentor application.

The program runs from **May 15** through **Mid-December**. In-person meetings will occur once a month beginning in June and ending in November. Most of the summer is time for mentors and mentees to work with each other. There are opportunities to gather informally during the summer and fall to connect with each other. In November we have a final meeting and evaluations occur in December.

Mentors:

AUA is looking for experienced growers who can mentor a beginning grower throughout the year. We are looking for growers of fruits, vegetables, medicine, flowers, farmed animals, and beekeepers, and composters. Mentors are expected to encourage good growing practices and assist mentees in connecting them to the urban agriculture community and/or starting their own farm operation. Mentors are compensated \$25/hr for up to 60 hours per cohort, and reimbursement for travel. .

Mentees:

AUA is looking for mentees who are looking to work in Chicagoland's urban agriculture landscape and want to strengthen their growing skills. This can mean you are interested in starting/working at a farm business, a community garden, and/or school gardens. Mentees are given the opportunity to learn in depth the journey of becoming a farmer/working as a farmer in the Chicagoland area. Mentees are compensated \$25/hr for up to 60 hours per cohort, and reimbursement for travel.

Application deadline:

Please submit your application by **April 22th** at 3:00 pm Central Time.

Application does not guarantee participation; each cohort consists of up to 7 pairs . Both mentors and mentees will need to submit a resume or summary of relevant experience for this application. For any questions regarding the application and program you can reach

Bea@auachicago.org.

For more information on AUA's Farmer to Farmer Mentorship program, see our website:

www.auachicago.org/farmertofarmer

Name

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Pronouns

Phone Number

*

Mailing Address

*

Name of Growing Space if applicable (If not applicable, please respond N/A)

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Farm address (If not applicable, please respond N/A.)

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What role are you interested in as a participant? Reminder that if you intend to register as both, you must submit two applications (one for each).

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Section 2 of 6

Application to Become a Farmer Mentor

Farmer Mentors are experienced growers of fruits, vegetables, medicine, flowers, farmed animal and beekeepers, and/or composters. Mentors are expected to share their knowledge and experience with a beginner farmer with limited experience in cultivation.

Why do you want to be a mentor to an emerging farmer?

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What areas do you feel capable of providing mentorship?

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As part of this mentorship program, mentors are being compensated for completing mentorship hours on-site through hands-on work. Are you willing to host a mentee at your growing space, or support your mentee through time spent at their growing space?

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Would you be willing to host fellow cohort members at your site for a tour and a volunteer day? We especially encourage you to consider hosting if you have a farm infrastructure project needing to be completed that you can lead the group through.

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If you said yes to the previous question, let us know which month/s, time of month, and what sort of project you have in mind.

If you have a mentee in mind, and they are applying, share their name and/or email address so we can identify their application.

Have you applied to be a mentor before?

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Section 3 of 6

Application to Become a Farmer Mentor: continued for new applicants

This is a few more questions for first time applicants for us to get to know you better!

How many years have you been farming? Please include formal (university/college), non-formal (in the field), paid, and/or unpaid relevant experience.

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Are you currently operating or working at an urban farm or garden?

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Please describe your role and responsibility in the operation if your previous answer was yes. If not, write N/A.

What type of farm or garden do you operate, or have you operated and/or worked on throughout the years? Choose all that apply.

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If your skill set includes specialized skills (animal, insect husbandry, composting, aquaponics, mushroom production, etc.), what do you do? Write N/A if this does not apply to you.

*

Do you have experience being an urban agriculture educator? Describe years of experience, context, and content of your teaching (formal and/or informal).

*

Please describe your teaching style.

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Section 4 of 6

Application to Becoming a Farmer Mentee

Farmer Mentees are beginning their journey in growing fruits, vegetables, medicine, flowers, farming animals, bees, and/or composting. While you may have some experience, you want to build a relationship with an experienced farmer mentor who is willing to share their experience and knowledge.

Briefly describe why you are interested in participating in the Farmer-to-Farmer mentorship program?

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In which of the following areas would you like mentoring?

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Please describe the type of education and skills you are seeking as part of the Farmer-to-Farmer mentorship program. Please include any relevant short term farming goals you wish to achieve through the program (ex: installing an irrigation, building new raised beds, building a farm business plan). Be as specific as possible.

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As part of this mentorship program, mentees are being compensated for completing mentorship hours on-site through hands-on work. Are you willing to spend mentorship hours at your mentor's growing space, or through time spent at your own growing space alongside your mentor?

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Please describe how you like to learn (also known as your learning style)

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Please describe your personality preferences for your mentor.

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If you have a mentor in mind and they are applying, share their name and/or email address so we can identify their application.

Scheduling

Please detail your availability and preferences for scheduling time with your mentor/mentee pair. Do you have any access needs we should be aware of? Please detail any language, location, transportation, PPE (ex. mask, sanitizer), technology, physical access needs, etc., including needs you may have that would affect your participation. Feel free to offer suggestions to maximize your participation and experience in the program.

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What is your preferred method of communication for mentorship delivery? Please keep in mind that, regardless of the delivery method, there is required on-site learning days throughout the program. Check all that apply.

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What is your general availability for mentoring? (check all that apply)

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We want to match you with someone who is aligned with your transportation abilities. How will you be traveling while in the program?

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Some of our participants live in Pembroke, IL, some in Chicago. For reference, Pembroke is about an hour outside of Chicago. Are you able and willing to travel between Chicago and Pembroke?

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Are you able to attend our virtual mentorship orientation on **May 15 at 5:00 PM CST**?

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After section 5

Continue to next section

Section 6 of 6

Optional Demographics

AUA is beginning to collect more in-depth demographic information for a couple of reasons. The first is because it allows AUA to track if the organization is truly reaching the audience we strive to through our organizational purpose and guiding values, and, if not, it allows us to evaluate ways we can better align ourselves with AUA's intended communities. The second is because many funders request demographic information on the services and programs their foundation funds. Have additional questions on how your demographic information is being used? Reach out to bea@auachicago.org and they would be happy to talk! All questions in this section are optional.

How do you describe your racial identity?

What is your age?

What is your gender identity? If comfortable, please also identify if you are cisgender, transgender, gender-nonconforming, or otherwise.

How do you describe your sexual orientation? Common identifiers include, but are not limited to: heterosexual (straight), gay, bisexual, lesbian, pansexual, and queer.

Are you a veteran?

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Do you identify as disabled?

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Question

Thank you very much for your time, and interest in the application for the 2024 Farmer to Farmer Mentorship. If you have additional questions about the program, AUA broadly or resources broadly, you are welcome to reach us at **bea@auachicago.org**