

EKAR FARM

CONNECT. GROW. NOURISH. REPAIR.

Community Outreach & Programs Manager

Location: Shalom Park, 14800 E Belleview Dr, Aurora, CO 80015 and various locations around the Denver/Aurora Metro area

Start Date: February 15th, 2026

Salary: \$53,000 - \$63,000 depending on experience

Employment Type: Full-time, exempt

Supervised By: Executive Director

About Ekar Farm

Ekar Farm is Denver's largest urban Jewish-inspired farm, dedicated to building a more equitable and sustainable food system. We cultivate fresh, sustainably grown produce and share it (100 % free of charge) with community partners serving families facing food insecurity.

Guided by the values of sustainability, stewardship, and food justice, Ekar brings people of all backgrounds together to learn, volunteer, and care for the earth through hands-on education and community programs. Over the years, our team has shared tens of thousands of pounds of produce, engaged thousands of volunteers, and partnered with schools, nonprofits, and faith groups across the Denver metro area.

As we grow into our new home at Shalom Park in Aurora, we're expanding education programs, volunteer opportunities, and inclusive spaces that connect people from seed to table.

Position Summary

Ekar's Community Outreach & Programs Manager (COPM) plays a central role in the organization by planning, coordinating, and implementing community-based programs, educational initiatives, and food access efforts that advance Ekar's mission. This role serves as a key point of connection between Ekar staff, community partners, educators, volunteers, and funders, ensuring programs are delivered effectively, documented accurately, and continuously improved based on feedback and reporting requirements.

Working closely with the Executive Director, farm staff, and program partners, the COPM supports outreach, education, partnership coordination, grant-funded programming, and internal systems for tracking impact and compliance. This position balances on-the-ground program delivery with planning, coordination, documentation, and cross-team communication.

Areas of Responsibility

Community Partnerships and Relationship Building

- Serve as a representative and primary point of contact for Ekar with community partners, including schools, early learning centers, congregations, nonprofit organizations, hunger relief partners, and government-supported initiatives.
- Develop, maintain, and strengthen partner relationships through regular communication, scheduling, follow-up, and coordination, with attention to equity, accessibility, and cultural relevance.
- Represent Ekar at partner meetings, community events, and outreach opportunities.
- Coordinate communication and logistics for on-farm and off-farm programs, events, and site visits.
- Seek opportunities to convey and integrate Jewish earth-based wisdom and tradition into Ekar's culture, programming, and educational offerings.
- Support programming that reflects Ekar's values around food justice, environmental stewardship, and community care.

Community Engagement & Environmental Education

- Plan, coordinate, and deliver environmental education and food-related programming for children, educators, families, seniors, and volunteers.
- Manage a portfolio of community programs and initiatives, including program design, scheduling, facilitation, evaluation, and continuous improvement.
- Lead on-farm and off-farm educational programming, including early childhood, K-12, adult, and senior programming, professional development trainings, volunteer education, summer camps, and seasonal events.
- Support frequent experiential education initiatives at schools, partner sites, and community locations, including recurring and one-time programs.
- Develop, adapt, and organize curriculum, lesson plans, supplies, and educational materials for programs and site visits.
- Design and facilitate farm- and earth-based events and holidays (including Shabbat and Jewish holidays) that connect people to community and to the earth, and engage a wide range of participants.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of intergenerational and senior-focused programming, and support the development and ongoing use of Shalom Park as a primary site for Ekar programming.
- Coordinate program and event logistics, including materials, staffing, scheduling, accessibility considerations, and site coordination.
- Support community garden use and programming, including coordination with gardeners, volunteers, and partner organizations.

Food Justice & Hunger Relief Programming

- Coordinate and support food access and education programs in partnership with Academy 360, Monarch Montessori, Hope Communities, Metro Caring, and other partner organizations.
- Support culturally relevant food education and resource distribution tied to CSA shares and community programs.
- Support Ekar's Cooperative Gardens Initiative by coordinating partner outreach, surveys, seed and seedling distribution logistics, and documentation.

- Coordinate with farm staff to align programming needs with crop planning, garden material, seed and plant ordering, and distribution timelines.

Grant-Funded Program Implementation & Reporting

- Support the implementation of grant-funded programs, including Healthy Food for Denver's Kids (HFDK), in collaboration with the Executive Director, farm staff, and partners.
- Manage program-related grant deliverables, timelines, documentation, and reporting requirements across multiple concurrent grants.
- Coordinate surveys, feedback collection, attendance tracking, and documentation required for grant compliance and reporting.
- Maintain organized records of program activities, partner engagement, educational sessions, and material distribution.
- Write or contribute to grant applications, reports, and compliance documentation in collaboration with the Executive Director and other staff as needed.
- Collect, organize, and analyze quantitative and qualitative feedback to inform program improvement and reporting.

Program Administration, Data, & Systems

- Develop, maintain, and improve systems for tracking program participation, partner engagement, feedback surveys, materials distribution, and other metrics.
- Organize and maintain program-related files, surveys, contact lists, curricula, and reporting materials within shared digital systems.
- Coordinate updates to forms, surveys, and internal tracking tools related to programming, outreach, and volunteer engagement.

Volunteers, Interns, & Internal Collaboration

- Supervise the Outreach and Programs Coordinator, providing guidance, delegation, prioritization, and ongoing support for program-related work.
- Manage interns and seasonal staff, including onboarding, training, task coordination, and performance feedback.
- Collaborate closely with farm staff, leadership, and administrative staff to ensure alignment across schedules, expectations, reporting, operations, and materials needed for programs.
- Foster a collaborative, organized, results-oriented, intellectually curious, community-driven, and kind work environment responsive to equity- and values-based considerations.
- Assist with farm and site-related tasks as needed, particularly during events, educational programming, and site transitions.

Communications & Outreach Support

- Contribute content and coordination support for newsletters, website updates, social media, calendars, forms, and program-related communications in collaboration with communications staff.
- Support the development, organization, and distribution of multilingual educational, outreach, and food access materials.
- Manage program-related surveys, follow-up communications, and participant outreach and respond to program-related inquiries received via email or online forms, routing messages as needed.

Ideal Candidate

The successful candidate will bring strong community organizing, food and farming/gardening, and educational experience, and seek to have a positive impact in relieving hunger in Denver/Aurora metro communities. They will use a 'big picture' mindset to advocate for local food justice and sustainable ways to live and conduct business. Working closely with Ekar's partners, they will be a catalyst for engaging, educating, and enriching community life at Ekar, the Jewish community, and beyond. Most importantly, this individual should have a passion for collaboration and educating the public on issues of food, nutrition, and sustainability.

Education & Experience

We welcome applicants with varying levels of experience provided you display the skills required to execute the job described above. Applicants do not need to have a Jewish background or identity.

Qualifications

- Leader and self-starter, with experience managing interns or volunteers and working with small teams.
- Organized and detail-oriented, able to execute on multiple projects and tasks.
- Experience developing and running educational opportunities appropriate for a wide range of age groups to learn about farming, food justice, the environment, spirituality, and community connection.
- Strong knowledge and experience in experiential education, gardening/farming with an interest in outdoor education and/or Jewish education.
- Experience writing grant proposals and reports and managing a grant schedule.
- Strong commitment to facilitating change in Denver's food system. Experience in community organizing is a plus.
- A connection to Ekar's mission and desire to work at the forefront of food and environmental equity issues and to assist and inspire others to do so.
- Strong interpersonal skills with an ability to collaborate well with a range of partners, teammates, and other stakeholders across economic, racial, and religious differences. Passion for connecting and building community.
- Comfortable and effective working independently and as a member of a team in both leadership and supporting roles. Confident giving and receiving feedback in the workplace.
- Proficient in Google Suite and Excel. Experience tracking budget expenses and analyzing data.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills with a willingness to learn, teach, and grow.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation.

Working Conditions

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable people with differing abilities:

- Typing, writing, reading, hearing, and speaking.
- The COPM will regularly use their personal vehicle for off-site programming visits, and may also deliver supplies, food, and equipment periodically.
- Standing and walking for several hours inside and outside in the summer, as well as sitting, squatting, crawling, climbing, and lifting up to 50 pounds.
- Early morning or late evenings, depending on programs, events, and farm needs.

Compensation & Benefits

This is a full-time, exempt employee position at 40 hours/week. Salary range is \$53,000 - \$63,000, depending on experience. Farm provides ongoing professional development, DEIJ trainings, 15 days paid vacation (after 1 year of employment), 6 days per year sick time, and 18 paid Federal and Jewish holidays. Ekar does not, at this time, provide employer-paid group health insurance, but may do so in the future, although we do provide a \$200 per month health benefits stipend. All full-time staff members receive a COLA (cost of living adjustment) of 5% annually (after 1 year of employment) on August 1st.

Schedule

General hours are 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. This position requires periodic evening and weekend work, as well as a heavier workload during the growing season. During April through October, average hours are 40+ per week; in November through March, average hours may be less than 40 per week.

How to Apply

We deeply value the diversity of insight, perspective, and experience brought by people from diverse backgrounds. This includes Black, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian people, LGBTQ, gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities, Black Jews, Jews of Color, Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews. We also welcome applications from people of diverse religious, spiritual, and cultural backgrounds. *Ekar is an equal opportunity employer.*

This position is open until filled. Please send a resume and cover letter that explains your connection to Ekar's work and how your experience relates to this position's areas of responsibility to the Executive Director, Jason Plotkin at jason@ekarfarm.org.