



**Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics &
Mayor's Office of Food Access
Food Security Design Fellow**

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/KQJJ8Cz79g6afSxu5>

Brief Job Description:

The [Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics](#) (MONUM) was formed in 2010, and serves as the City of Boston's civic innovation team. We tackle projects that cover a range of topics, which includes everything from civic engagement to City infrastructure to public health. We work across departments and communities to explore, experiment, and evaluate new approaches to government and civic life. One of these deep collaborations has been with the [Mayor's Office of Food Access](#) (OFA) who has rapidly expanded their programs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to address the increased food insecurity in our city.

The pandemic has spotlighted the deep inequities and vulnerabilities of our food system. It has also exacerbated the existing food insecurity gap, especially for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other communities who already faced health and wealth disparities prior to the pandemic due to systematic racism. This heightened awareness and urgency to change how food gets to people in need is challenging cities to think differently about food access. Through a partnership with *No Kid Hungry*, The City of Boston is bringing on a fellow to add capacity to city innovation and food program teams. Throughout the 18-month long Fellowship, you will collaborate with communities, city agencies, and nonprofits in the design, prototyping, and launch of at least one innovation in food access. You'll also have the opportunity to be part of a learning cohort across three cities participating in this opportunity.

MONUM and OFA are seeking a Food Security Design Fellow who can work to address the challenges related to the stigma of using the City's safety net and emergency food programs. We are looking for a creative designer who is comfortable navigating sensitive conversations with a multilingual population, has some experience in design research or program design, and feels passionate about creating more equitable food systems.

This person will lead a body of work that aims to reduce and eliminate the stigma associated with the use of food security programs. Dually based within MONUM and OFA, this individual will work closely with community based organizations and program providers to meet the needs of the residents. The fellow will be responsible for crafting new approaches to perennial challenges by conducting first person research and scoping prototypes to address them.



The ideal candidate for this role will be comfortable working in undefined areas between the formal responsibilities of multiple stakeholders, co-creating with residents, and possess an internal motivation to move a difficult agenda forward.

Context & Responsibilities:

Your role will be to conduct design research, scope a set of prototypes, and launch a program to address issues related to negative stigma associated with food safety net and emergency food programs.

In Boston, approximately 72,000 residents are eligible but have not yet enrolled on SNAP. We have over 36,000 Boston undocumented residents in the city of Boston that do not qualify for Federal or State safety net programs and don't use the emergency food programs. School and summer meals are underutilized, WIC and Cash Assistance programs enrollment are low. These programs are meant to support families and individuals to overcome difficult times and provide economical flexibility. Every program is underutilized due to a lack of awareness, education, and, in many cases, stigma.

We are committed to finding ways to improve the experience of Boston residents seeking support through safety nets or emergency programs. Our goal is to empower individuals to choose programs that can support them in transitional times. We want to normalize the use of all food support systems in a dignified way. We need your ideas and expertise to help us try to address this perennial challenge.

Qualifications:

Applicants may have a range of backgrounds from design to public service to academia. There is no single set of qualifications that are necessary to be successful in this role. Candidates who are entrepreneurial, have a passion for food system issues, and possess several of the qualifications listed below are encouraged to apply.

- Experience using human-centered design, civic design, service design, or a related innovation approach with a community focus.
- Experience centering equity in research, program design, and/or organizing with a preference for direct experience building trust and collaborating with impacted communities
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with a team
- Knowledge of food system issues in the urban context
- Strong communication skills and facilitation experience with a range of stakeholders and a demonstrated ability to form partnerships



- Work and/or lived experience in families or communities experiencing economic insecurity
- Ideal candidates should be “self-starters” and comfortable with charting their own course in complex and seemingly hierarchical organizations. Experience working within local government is appreciated, but not essential.
- Must be proficient with the Google Suite, spreadsheets, and have strong written and verbal communication skills. Visual design skills are also appreciated.
- Additional language proficiency in one of the City of Boston’s [top ten](#) commonly requested language accommodations is highly preferred
- A diverse set of work experience in this field is preferred, appropriate educational substitutions may be made, such as a Master’s degree in a design related field.

Apply by completing the application and submitting a portfolio here:

<https://forms.gle/KQJJ8Cz79g6afSxu5>

City of Boston Residency is Required

An Important Disclaimer: This position requires you to report in-person 5-days a week at Boston City Hall, with reasonable exceptions made for fieldwork and community-based efforts. Remote work options are currently not supported by the City of Boston.

Benefits / Terms / Compensation

- Peer-to-peer learning and exchange with other Fellows and their city partners in Memphis and Seattle.
- Exposure to opportunities provided by the No Kid Hungry network, from speaking engagements to idea exchange with cities from across the country
- Non-Union: \$75,000 annual
- Hours Per Week: 35 hr
- Position is an 18-month long fellowship commencing from start date