## Database Developer – Part Time, Remote
*Posted 7/24/2025*

**About Community Science Institute:** Community Science Institute is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and NYSDOH ELAP-certified water testing lab. Our mission is to inspire and empower communities to safeguard water resources by cultivating scientific literacy through volunteer water quality monitoring, certified laboratory analyses, and education. CSI recruits, trains, and coordinates volunteers in the Cayuga Lake watershed and surrounding region to participate in our three long term water quality monitoring programs: Synoptic Stream and Lake Monitoring, Biomonitoring, and Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring. In partnership with these volunteers, we build long-term datasets of regulatory quality data that can help guide the sustainable management of local water resources while empowering volunteers to act as stewards of water resources. These data are available to the public on our online water quality database: www.database.communityscience.org. Alone, these data speak volumes, but we help give them a voice through our outreach and education initiatives including our Water Bulletin Newsletter, summer Journey of Water youth education program, Biomonitoring Open Lab nights, and Monthly Updates. In addition, CSI offers fee-based, certified drinking water testing services and counts Tompkins County Whole Health, New York State Parks, and Cornell University as well as dozens of businesses and hundreds of private homeowners among our clients. In this way we provide a valuable service to our community while earning fees that help support our nonprofit mission.

**About the Position:** We are seeking a full stack Ruby on Rails developer who is responsible for maintaining, updating, and improving CSI's public water quality database [www.database.communityscience.org](http://www.database.communityscience.org) and website [www.communityscience.org.](http://www.communityscience.org) Making CSI's volunteer-collected data available to the public on our database is a core part of our organization's mission. The database developer is responsible for database maintenance as well as incorporating upgrades and data visualization improvements that will enhance the end user experience.

**Responsibilities and Opportunities of the Position:**
The Database Developer's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:
- Improve functionality and organization of Water Quality data entry system within Ruby on Rails for ease of use by staff and volunteers.
- Develop the Streams & Lakes, Harmful Algal Bloom, Biomonitoring sections of CSI's database.
- Contribute to a mission-driven organization working to monitor and protect water quality in collaboration with a network of over 250 local volunteers.
- Work with CSI staff and volunteers to understand the data visualization needs of the public to design and implement creative techniques to visualize and communicate water quality trends across time and space.
- Operate, maintain and monitor the security and backup of two servers which hold the CSI Water Quality Database and CSI Wordpress Website, respectively.
- Manage and provide support for CSI's Wordpress Website

Community Science
Institute
Partnering with Communities to Protect Water

Volunteer Monitoring
Outreach and Education
Certified Water Testing (NYSDOH-ELAP #11790)

- Ability to take initiative, work independently, solve problems, and pay attention to details.

**Minimum Qualifications:**
- Demonstrated experience with full stack Ruby on Rails development.
- Experience with Front-end (Javascript) and Back-end (PostgreSQL, MySQL) development.
- Experience with Wordpress.
- Enthusiasm for CSI's mission.
- Familiarity with the Finger Lakes Region.

**Enhancing Qualifications:**
- Experience with Google Maps API, Highcharts, or JavaScript.
- Experience with Linux, especially SSH Keys, Users, Admin tasks
- Data visualization experience, especially with scientific data.
- Experience with environmental science, chemistry, hydrology, or a similar field.
- Experience with science communication.

**Special requirements (REMOTE):**
- Reliable and secure internet connection for remote work.
- Must supply their own computer and other related accessories for remote work.

**Hours, compensation, and benefits:**
- Part time, 10 hours/week, flexible scheduling
- Remote, preferably in New York State or other nearby state as some in-person work in Ithaca, NY may be desired occasionally
- $30-$35/hour wage, depending on qualifications
- Thirteen paid holidays plus one floating holiday
- Paid health time (AKA sick time) and paid vacation/personal time
- Simple pension plan with CSI contribution overseen by CFCU Wealth Management

**Application:** Please email your resume and cover letter outlining why you are well-suited for and interested in this position to CSI's Executive Director, Grascen Shidemantle, at gshidemantle@communityscience.org with "Database Developer" in the subject line. **Please note that both a resume and a cover letter are required for an application to be considered.** The job will remain posted until the position has been filled.

**Inclusion statement:** CSI is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage qualified applicants from historically underrepresented groups in the sciences to apply. We will fully consider all qualified applicants without regard to race, culture, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, lifestyle, marital status, or veteran status.