

## Appendix A. DRAFT Work Plan

**Urban agriculture has potential to afford residents of every community equal access to fresh, healthy produce.** In order to ensure success of urban agriculture in BVHP, the following recommendations have been developed based on findings from 2013 SEFA key informant interviews and focus groups, as well as best practices in urban agriculture.

As momentum for urban agriculture increases on a national level, there is a growing body of research that supports this movement and outlines strategies for successful initiatives. The following recommendations include existing efforts that have worked in BVHP and address current challenges. Recommendations are organized by three categories and are intended to inform a five-year strategic plan for urban agriculture in BVHP:

1. Expand economic and workforce development opportunities through urban agriculture projects;
2. Increase community capacity and cohesion with urban agriculture initiatives; and
3. Improve resiliency and sustainability of existing and future urban agriculture projects.

With community input, the recommendations are organized according to residents' priorities. Strategies are provided for each category of recommendations, along with who would be primarily responsible to take the lead and other models to consult.

GOAL	RECOMMENDATION	STRATEGIES	WHO	OTHER MODELS
<p><b>Develop economic and workforce development opportunities through urban agriculture projects.</b></p>	<p><b>Foster economic development projects to build capacity of community based organizations to generate income for individuals and worker owned enterprises.</b></p>	<p><b>Support organizations to create business models</b> that include infrastructure needs, timelines, staffing, budget, deliverables and collaborations.</p> <p><b>Develop microenterprise projects.</b></p> <p><b>Create or support existing worker-owned farm-to-table efforts</b> (e.g. co-ops that install food gardens and drought resistant landscaping in new community gardens, private homes and businesses).</p>	<p>Community OEWD</p> <p>Community</p>	<p>La Cocina</p> <p>Evergreen Co-op – Cleveland</p> <p>Rainbow Grocery</p> <p>Garden Project (SF Jail), Planting Justice</p>
	<p><b>Build on workforce development efforts in BVHP to address high unemployment rates and the large number of youth in the community.</b></p>	<p><b>Introduce work trades, training, and skill-building opportunities for BVHP residents.</b> Develop a youth/young adult urban agriculture job-training program (i.e. internship program) as an entrepreneurial resource.</p> <p><b>Train local residents to install family/community gardens and manage and maintain them.</b></p> <p><b>Connect job skill training sites to local urban ag projects.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Young Community Developers (YCD) train youth and young adults of the BVHP community and could serve as an urban agriculture partner, especially with its connections to the Mayor’s Youth Employment and Education Program and Summer Work Experience Program.</i></li> <li><i>Work with Evans/ Southeast Campus of City</i></li> </ul>	<p>YCD, Hunters Point Family, Northridge, Alice Griffith, Girls 2000</p> <p>YCD/CCSF</p>	<p>Greenagers?</p> <p>(See The Food Project or City Slicker Farms in Case Studies Appendix D). Align with existing youth programs in BVHP such as Hunters Point Family and provide leadership roles.</p>

		<p><i>College of San Francisco to establish a certificate program in urban agriculture production with optional business training. Identify other relevant programs at additional Bay Area community colleges.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cooperative extension programs offer educational training in urban agriculture production as well as business operations.</i></li> <li>• <i>Work with the Urban Permaculture Guild SF which offers trainings that focus on utilizing permaculture principles in urban settings.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Determine how the PUC sites</b> (greenhouses, treatment facility, community center) can be used for workforce development.</p>		
<p><b>Increase community capacity and cohesion with urban agriculture initiatives.</b></p>	<p><b>Establish a BVHP urban agriculture Community Network.</b></p> <p><b>Prioritize the local economy, the environment and equity</b> to develop a sustainable plan.</p> <p><b>Consider new developments</b> in the community and how urban agriculture can play a positive role in place-based transformations. Use community participatory methods to guide, create,</p>	<p><b>Organize a core group</b> of representative gardeners (e.g. Steering Committee) with a shared vision who are interested in coordinating urban agriculture activities and building support for the movement.</p> <p><b>Include youth, young adults</b> and other vulnerable populations of BVHP in the vision.</p> <p><b>Develop accessible</b> community urban agriculture hub (eg shared tools, materials, etc).</p> <p><b>Develop or utilize existing website/network</b> to share urban agriculture Community Network information. Integrate urban agriculture resources from the SEFA website.</p>	<p>Bayview HEAL Zone / SEFA</p> <p>RPD, PUC, DPW</p> <p>BVHP Garden Network</p>	

	and evaluate new projects.	<b>Coordinate and network</b> with city, state and national urban ag coalitions organizations, agencies, and initiatives to identify and support best practices. (See Case Studies Appendix B.	BVHP Garden Network	
	<b>Increase resident and volunteer engagement in urban agriculture projects that reflects diversity/language of neighborhood.</b>	<p><b>Incentivize participation</b> with gardening workshops, cooking classes, art projects, and food donations.</p> <p><b>Plan fun, engaging garden events</b> (e.g. harvest festivals, outdoor film festivals) to engage neighbors.</p> <p><b>Recruit volunteers</b> from existing organizations (fraternities, service organizations within the community, etc.) and at community events.</p> <p><b>Invite potential volunteers to urban agriculture Community Network</b> meetings and encourage open dialogue about garden projects.</p> <p><b>Work with and support existing garden programs and promote leadership from people of color.</b> HPF has a long history in the neighborhood of working with SF Housing Authority communities, utilizing agriculture to help vulnerable population gain vital work related skills that will be directed towards improving the community.</p> <p><b>Work with Spanish, Chinese, and Samoan speaking leaders</b> who have or want to gain an understanding of urban agriculture to develop programs that address the needs of their communities.</p>	Hunters Point Family	
	<b>Develop free or low</b>	<b>School gardens</b> provide opportunities for		

	<p><b>cost educational programs and training opportunities to meet community needs.</b></p>	<p>education and interaction in an outdoor classroom.</p> <p><b>Promote intergenerational learning.</b> Partner with existing senior programs in the neighborhood and interested seniors. Senior citizens can work with youth in the gardens so that elders can impart ancestral skills and knowledge to younger generations, fortifying youth’s connection to their culture.</p> <p><b>Identify curriculum for teenagers</b> that includes food justice, self-empowerment, civic duty and responsibility. (See The Food Project and Planting Justice in Case Studies Appendix B.)</p> <p><b>Recruit trusted community leaders</b> as educators, including SEFA Food Guardians, Hunters Point Family, Quesada Gardens and faith-based groups.</p> <p><b>Provide agricultural trainings</b> that address existing pollution challenges, soil remediation, building raised beds, composting to build new soil, and local agrarian knowledge.</p> <p><b>Incorporate nutrition education</b> about the value of fresh produce. Partner with existing neighborhood organizations already doing this work (Food Guardians, BVHP 3<sup>rd</sup> St Youth Clinic, Links). Hold cooking classes using fresh, organic produce from nearby gardens and farms. Engage youth in cooking classes so they learn about the benefits of eating fresh produce.</p> <p><b>Identify existing community kitchens</b> that will allow access for workshops and demonstrations (e.g. YMCA, FACES at Whitney Young CDC).</p>		
--	---	--	--	--

		<b>Select an outdoor cooking demonstration</b> site in a BVHP garden.		
<b>Improve resiliency and sustainability of existing and future urban agriculture projects.</b>	<b>Through BVHP Urban Ag Network, identify and coordinate available resources.</b>	<p><b>Solicit help</b> from locally recognized service organizations, colleges, universities, churches, and corporate volunteers (e.g. Salesforce) for garden workdays.</p> <p><b>Incorporate youth and young adults</b> as a resource: Food Guardians, Hunters Point Family, Nutrition Soldiers, etc.</p> <p><b>Investigate whether local groups, organizations and businesses</b> have needed garden resources that they are willing to donate. (E.g. the Bay Area Community Exchange, San Francisco Freecycle Network, Recology, Bayview Greenwaste, Scroungers’ Center for Reusable Art Parts (SCRAP), Building Resources, and the tool lending library in Excelsior. )</p> <p><b>Develop an accessible resource center</b> by working with RPD’s urban agriculture program, SF DPW and the PUC to build a BVHP center that includes items needed by the community (e.g. gardening tools, seeds, compost, mulch, access to large equipment, and cooking supplies).</p> <p><b>Promote existing centralized composting operations</b> that collect free compost from local businesses to be used for urban agriculture purposes.</p> <p><b>Support development of Urban Ag/Gardening certificate programs</b> at CCSF-SE Facilities campus as originally intended.</p> <p><b>Access to mulch, compost, and large equipment.</b></p>		Composting: See City Slicker Farms example in Case Studies Appendix B.

		<p><b>Work with SF Dept. of the Environment, SF PUC, and local organization &amp; business to promote rain water catchment.</b> Use rain barrels in community gardens and farms to collect and store rainwater.</p>		
	<p><b>Seek sustainable funding from city and private funders for existing and proposed urban agriculture projects.</b></p>	<p><b>Advocate for city policy</b> initiatives that support sustainable urban agriculture funding.</p> <p><b>Seek funding from state and federal legislation</b> and grant opportunities (e.g. Proposition 84 or the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture), The American Community Gardening Association's list of funding opportunities, and established tech companies in the city (e.g. Zynga).</p>		

## Appendix B: Food Justice & Urban Agriculture

Right now in America there are 13.5 million low-income people who live more than a mile from a supermarket, and over 2 million don't have access to a vehicle.<sup>i</sup> In these neighborhoods food typically comes from fast food chains, convenience stores and drug stores, which often means decreased access to fresh fruits or vegetables and higher prices. Poor diets and obesity have been associated with these so-called "food deserts,"<sup>ii</sup> where obesity rates can be five times higher than in communities with access to fresh, healthy foods. Not only is obesity a by-product of disparities in America's food system, but so too are Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. All three of those diseases affect low-income people of color at higher rates than affluent white communities.

Food deserts exist mostly in urban environments; although there are many rural towns that lack access to fresh produce and healthy food. Children are consequently disconnected from fruits and vegetables, which fail to have positive associations for them. This cycle of poor nutrition impacts people of all ages and races, from individuals to families. People of color, however, are disproportionately affected compared to those in white communities.<sup>iii</sup> Underserved communities, like BVHP, have been subjected to economic and environmental racism for decades, which makes the term "food desert" misleading because it implies that this is a natural phenomenon and not a result of marginalization and exploitation. Millions of food dollars are not only drained from BVHP, but from low-income communities around the United States as people travel out of their neighborhoods to spend money at cheap grocery outlets in order to buy fresh, healthy foods.<sup>iv</sup>

It is important to consider low-income residents of BVHP who are unable to find transportation and are forced to rely on several buses or a taxi to shop for groceries outside of their neighborhood. In lieu of these options, more costly high fat and sugary processed foods may instead be purchased from corner stores closer to home. Limited access to healthy food is therefore feeding the obesity epidemic already rampant in this country.

The food justice movement is a solutions-oriented approach to such issues, and is typically comprised of communities of color, low-income communities and otherwise underserved communities. The food justice lens is focused on ensuring that everyone has equal access to safe, healthy, affordable food. Some food justice initiatives also aim to create a more just food system that is free from the exploitation of land, people and resources by eliminating inequities, injustices and disparities in the industrialized food system.

One solution to food injustices in low-income communities has been the growth of urban agriculture projects across the country. Urban agriculture comes in many forms, most commonly in community gardens, community orchards, urban farms, farmers' markets, farm stands, backyard gardens, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares. Projects can be established in vacant municipal or private lots, backyards, rooftops, city parks, churchyards and schoolyards.

Urban agriculture not only increases access to fresh and nutrient-rich produce, but also boasts a plethora of other benefits including economic development opportunities. A community can be bolstered by the sale of produce from urban farms through farm stands, farmers' markets and CSAs. Job skills can be taught to youth through urban agriculture, as well as adults who may be transitioning from homelessness or incarceration. Some of the



key job skills learned include showing up on time to work, arriving prepared, working as part of a team, developing leadership skills, and self-empowerment.

Workforce development positions may not be paid, but skills learned “on the job” instill a sense of confidence, value and worth in trainees, while providing opportunities for networking to find new jobs. Larger urban agriculture initiatives can invest in their community by providing technical expertise and training, as well as land and supplies for residents who may want to start growing their own food. Families can save up to \$2,000 a year on all or some of their produce needs.<sup>1</sup>

Blemished vacant lots can be transformed from eyesores into beautiful spaces that build community while crossing age, race and class barriers. Overall, morale is boosted when a neighborhood’s aesthetics are enhanced. Furthermore, the revitalization of neighborhoods through productive use of vacant land strengthens community connections and resiliency, thus improving neighborhood safety. A sense of safety is created in a welcoming space where everyone can gather to volunteer, socialize or just enjoy the surroundings.

In addition to providing nourishing food, urban farms and community gardens have the ability to develop a plan that includes educational workshops, agricultural training and cooking classes. Not only are people’s affinity for the environment strengthened, but perhaps the younger generations involved develop a long-term commitment to urban agriculture improvements.

Urban agriculture spaces also provide opportunities for physical activity, which is especially important in communities where incidence of Type 2 diabetes and obesity is high. The combination of regular exercise and eating fresh fruits and vegetables can prevent the onset of obesity. Starting with the younger generations is key for changing embedded unhealthy cultural behaviors and habits. Gardening provides opportunities to introduce children to healthy food because, more often than not, a child who grows broccoli will eat broccoli. The same is true for adults who are positively affected by working together to grow food.

The types of produce grown are an important part of encouraging healthy eating in a community. Growing culturally-relevant foods may help to increase healthy eating habits, particularly if those foods are not available within the neighborhood. Moreover, reconnecting community members to lost cultural food traditions is an opportunity to impart ancestral skills and knowledge onto community members.

Clearly, the list of urban farm and garden benefits is long. Exhibiting positive environmental impacts are another boon for urban agriculture. Carbon sequestration, habitat for beneficial insects and animals (e.g. bees and birds), and decreased storm water runoff are just a few examples of environmental benefits. Though many other unnamed benefits remain, disaster preparedness and resilience should not be an underestimated outcome of urban agriculture projects. Having a readily available source of food for the local community in case of a natural disaster helps supplement emergency food aid from organizations like food banks.

There are incidents, however, that threaten food security when farmers are evicted or the land risks development. These examples not only negatively impact disaster resilience, but

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/What-s-the-value-of-home-grown-food-2535201.php#page-2>

are also barriers to successful long-term urban agriculture operations. This is particularly true for farms or gardens created on vacant property where there is no contractual ownership of the land by the farmers. Lacking confidence in land security results in a lack of long-term investment in necessary infrastructure, such as efficient watering methods or reliable tools.

Challenges in urban agriculture include investing significant time and resources upfront. The presence of toxics in urban agriculture developments is also difficult, especially where vacant land is contaminated with lead. Cleanup of brownfields is an expensive endeavor and applying for funding from the EPA's Brownfields Program can be daunting for the average citizen.

Once resources are designated to test soil at new sites, additional costs may be needed for soil cleanup or remediation. Another option is to build raised beds above the contamination line. This, too, requires an upfront investment. Other operating costs typically include acquiring new soil/compost, seeds/plants and tools. A source for watering is also necessary and if water lines do not currently exist, there is a costly fee for initially tapping into a water line. Larger urban agriculture projects often require additional resources, such as packing and distribution facilities, refrigeration and trucks or tractors.

Navigating through city permits and policies can be a daunting task that requires additional time and sometimes fees. Encountering such obstacles can also inhibit the success of urban agriculture projects. Political know-how is a needed skill when farming on municipal land.

Training is also generally required when recruiting help on agriculture initiatives, and can be focused generally on growing and harvesting food to specific financial aspects of the operation. Business skills are especially important when there are profit projects for operational expenses or to pay farmhands. When profits are primarily generated from the sale of produce, supplementing income can only be done for a limited number of workers and typically not at full-time rates.

Despite all of the aforementioned challenges in urban farming/gardening, there are many avenues for success. Having specific policies or ordinances in place to ensure long-term use or ownership of land can increase the likelihood of land being farmed and the farmers staying for years. If soil testing shows that the parcel is contaminated or if historical use would indicate so, gardeners have several options for addressing polluted soil. The most common solution to contaminated soil is to build raised beds and fill them with new soil and compost. This is especially important when growing leafy greens and/or if there are a high number of children on the garden site or eating the produce. The existing soil can also be remediated with particular fungi varieties, highly absorptive plants (e.g. sunflowers), and microbes that digest chemicals.

If there are no existing water mains to tap into or the farm is unable to pay the associated steep fee, some gardens have been able to skirt the issue by using neighboring residents' water and paying them the costs of usage. After watering needs are met, new farmers have greater success when they receive formal training for growing, marketing and selling produce. State or regional extension services, where available, have filled this need as well as agricultural education centers.

Collaborating with other farmers may not only be a valuable teaching/learning experience,

but also address one of the most common issues associated with gardening and farming. Infrastructure needs, such as tools, can be met when farmers work together to share resources and even expenses, like liability insurance. Seed libraries and tool resource centers are becoming more prevalent in cities around the country, which saves gardeners money on tools they only occasionally need.

As is generally the case, increasing diversity increases sustainability. For farmers that can mean several things, such as the way in which their food is sold. Diversifying sale methods can include selling through a CSA, farmers' markets and individual farm stands. Starting with a CSA, for example, allows the operation to begin on a small scale with guaranteed clientele.

Selling produce to small markets, liquor stores and grocery co-ops makes local food more accessible to the community and benefits small businesses as well.

When the infrastructure or resources exists, selling prepared foods (i.e. value-added products), like jams, can bring in extra money for a farm. If one operation is unable to develop value-added products, they can sell such items from other local farms. The same is true for supplementing with additional produce from nearby gardens or farms, in order to increase offerings for customers.

In a community where there are many home gardens, an urban farm can financially benefit by operating as a nursery and providing gardeners with seedlings or training workshops. Greenhouses may be needed to propagate plants for nurseries. Once farmers know if they're going to sell plants and who their market audience will be, they can create a business plan. Operation evaluations should include market goals. Evaluations are very important for highlighting successes, determining what needs to change, and for funding purposes (i.e. grant proposals or reports).

Though evaluations are significant, knowing what the farm or garden's operation goals are the first necessary steps. Without identifying the purpose of an urban agriculture project – such as workforce development, generating supplemental income, providing healthy food, or community building – it's difficult to measure success. Purpose and goals need to be considered when developing an evaluation plan.

Certain city services can be provided to reduce costs, such as trash collection, compost delivery, access to water and a resource center of tools. Financing urban farm or garden operations is key for sustaining momentum. The [American Community Gardening Association](#) offers a listing of funding opportunities as does the USDA's [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) (NIFA). This agency can also provide technical assistance through its [extension programs](#), which provide research and educational assistance to help farmers and gardeners. Other extension programs include [UMass Amherst](#), the most utilized and well-known program, the [College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley](#) and [University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension](#) program. Unfortunately funding for extension programs has been waning drastically over the years, which restricts offered services or has resulted in program closures across the country.

In addition to funding needs, education is a large component of successful urban agriculture projects. Those who are leading the initiatives need both technical training for how to

effectively run an urban farm or garden and nonprofit management and/or business operations skills. Staff members also need the agricultural production training. Many local gardens/farms, cooperative extension programs and even some colleges offer educational training in urban agriculture production as well as the operations side of business. Some community colleges now offer courses and certificates in urban agriculture with added business training. Another valuable, yet often overlooked, resource is the Service Corps of Retired Executives ([SCORE](#)), which offers free help with business planning, accounting, marketing and other business skills.

## Appendix C: Case Studies

### THE FOOD PROJECT

Based in Massachusetts, The Food Project (TFP) was established to address the disconnect between youth and adults and the land around them. The organization has managed to bring sustainable agriculture to both suburban and urban communities throughout the state in just 22 years. The Food Project currently grows over 250,000 pounds of food annually, which is more than 10 times the amount produced in 1992.

The urban farms in Roxbury began contributing to overall food production in 1995 – the first year that TFP partnered with residents to convert an abandoned urban lot. Two more Roxbury food lots were developed by 2001, one of which belongs to a neighborhood gardener. In addition to community support from residents, TFP has also partnered with schools. There is a half-acre farm in Lynn (the outskirts of Boston) on school grounds that had 25 youth workers in its first year. Conservation land has been another source of agricultural space, such as in the suburbs of Beverly, where the farm began in 2006 through Trustees of Reservations. With the accumulation of various farms in and around Boston, TFP now has more than 150 youth employees, 32 staff members, 5 fellows, 4 FoodCorps Service Members, and almost 2,000 volunteers each year. Labor is comprised mostly of teenagers in order to provide direct learning and job experiences, in addition to fostering healthy relationships with nature and local food systems.

The throngs of paid and unpaid people help The Food Project carry out its goal of transforming fallow land into abundant food spaces. Their mission focuses on fostering “a thoughtful and productive community of adults and youth from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system.”<sup>2</sup> It is of particular importance that TFP’s mission statement emphasizes partnerships between youth and adults. Closing age gaps (and ageism to a certain extent) in communities is one patch on the sustainability quilt. In this model, both young and old learn together how to be good stewards of their land, culture, and communities. Diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives are all embraced in maintaining a way of life that connects people to nature. Above all else, TFP values a system of farms that gives everyone equal access to safe, affordable, healthy food.

Producing mostly organic fruits and vegetables ensures that TFP’s customers are in fact consuming healthy food. All of the urban farms import their soil due to much of the land in abandoned urban lots being contaminated with toxics, such as lead. Initially importing the soil and compost was one of the methods used to keep the growers, volunteers, and eaters safe among the 3.25 acres of Boston farms. Community health is a top priority when TFP converts neglected urban lots into food sources.

The remaining 38 acres of TFP farms are distributed between the suburbs of Lincoln and Beverly. Lincoln holds the bulk of the land with 33 acres. The largest farm is actually part of Lincoln’s

---

<sup>2</sup> The Food Project. Available at <http://thefoodproject.org>.

conservation lands, of which 27 acres is used for food production. The remaining 4 acres are used for composting, equipment, storage, an irrigation pond, and a CSA distribution site. All of the farms are active participants in producing and distributing food, training volunteers and teenagers, and teaching communities about sustainable agriculture.

The programs and resources offered by The Food Project are just as important as the food they produce to feed their communities. They specialize in both food and community programs in order to tie everything together. In terms of food, each farm participates in nearby farmers' markets, all of which accept EBT and WIC. The Boston farms have a stand at two farmers' markets weekly. There are also summer and winter CSA shares, which members sign up for in advance and can either pay upfront or in monthly installments. Produce that is not sold at the market or in CSA shares is distributed to 12 hunger relief organizations.

In addition to donating to local food banks, TFP has several community programs. There are workshops where residents can learn agricultural skills. They assist with neighborhood gardens, such as through the Build-A-Garden program. Other beneficial programs offered are the Urban Learning Farm, Boston Bounty Bucks, the Annual City Farm Festival, and giving neighborhood tours. The Urban Learning Farm, for instance, has been around for ten years and functions as an education center. It was created for Roxbury adults and youth in the area. Raised beds were constructed and used as a way to demonstrate to the community how they can grow food safely in urban soil, while simultaneously maximizing yields.

Some of the sub-programs offered at the Urban Learning Farm are the Summer Group Program, gardener workshops, and school partnerships. The Summer Group Program involves hosting a group of youth (from 8 to 18 years-old) on the farm for a day. The Food Project high school interns are in charge of coordinating youth through work projects, and harvesting and eating a snack from the land. The young visitors also learn about local food systems and healthy eating through various activities. Older community members are targeted through gardener workshops, which are a component of the Build-A-Garden program. These workshops teach gardeners of all levels how to build raised beds and the benefits of gardening with raised beds. There is even a program for young children. Elementary students from three nearby schools come to the Urban Learning Farm for 14 weeks to learn about plant science, healthy eating, and gardening in general.

Youth are one of the primary targets of The Food Project, with lessons beyond healthy eating. Teenagers are taught about socially just food systems, while becoming inspired to build diverse and productive communities.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the direct experience with farming, food, and communities provides real-world leadership skills and introductions to community-capacity building. There are tiers of scaffolding programs that engage youth in social change: the Summer Youth Program, the Academic Year Program, internships, and Alumni Connections. The Summer Youth Program is the first step, and pays teenagers (14 to 17 years-old) to help build community. In addition to being paid, they can also receive community service hours for school requirements or for other reasons. Where public transportation is not an option for farms, such as in Lincoln, TFP provides transportation for the teenagers to and from work. Not only do the teens work on the farms, at the farmers' markets, and at hunger relief organizations, but they also get free job

---

<sup>3</sup> Fisman, L. (2007). "Sowing a Sense of Place: An in-depth case study of changing youths' sense of places." Department of Urban Studies and Planning dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

training. For instance, they learn how to create their own resumes. Lastly, they are mandated to attend workshops about social issues surrounding current food systems.

For those who are unable to attend TFP workshops or programs, there are a plethora of free resources available. The community training and services are perhaps one of TFP's most accessible and equitable offerings, for those who have online access. Aside from The Food Project Institute, some CDs, videos, and books, all other materials are in fact available for free on TFP's website. Their two published books (*Growing Together* and *French Fries and the Food System*), however, may be worth purchasing for the youth activities centered around socially just food systems. There are also a myriad of activities outlined online, which can be used with any age bracket. Some of the activities also include lesson plans on food systems, sustainable agriculture, and hunger and homelessness. If more in depth lessons are desired, free curriculum from the Summer Youth Program is also available. Manuals for all ages are downloadable as PDFs for anyone who wants to replicate TFP programs. The manuals include all of the following: Academic Year Program, Summer Youth Program, Rural Agriculture, Farmers' Market, Urban Agriculture, and a Volunteer Manual. The Farmers' Market Manual models how to set up a market, how to choose what to sell, how to train people, marketing skills, and managing records. The Urban Agriculture guide includes methods on creating safe soil, working with all community members, and designing urban food lots. The Volunteer Manual highlights recruitment strategies, scheduling techniques, and designing various volunteer-specific programs.

The Food Project has managed to achieve equity, exhibit environmentally-friendly behaviors, and maintain economic viability. Equity is clearly visible through the granting of equal access to all farms and produce. The Food Project is inclusive of diversity for youth positions, they offer free online tools, they provide transportation for youth workers where public transportation is unavailable, and offer urban farms close to mass transit for accessibility. Less driving amounts to awareness for the environment, in addition to the sustainable agricultural practices of TFP. The environment is at the forefront as fallow land is transformed into fertile soils with the help of organic produce. This is especially important in cases where degraded urban lots have been converted into healthy green spaces. The safe food is then used as a vector for achieving economic stability through produce sales. On top of gaining financial contributions from individual, foundation, corporate, and government entities, revenue is also received through training materials.<sup>4</sup> Though The Food Project receives revenue, it should not be mistaken as a for-profit entity.

The benefits of TFP are seemingly endless as they address both suburban and urban needs. Not only do they provide food for densely populated areas, but they also teach self-sufficiency and resiliency to all individuals and communities. This is particularly significant in food scarce areas, such as parts of Roxbury. All towns and cities experience ageism, which is addressed by TFP as well. They help bridge age gaps between teenagers and adults, who learn to work together on service projects.

The Food Project has grown into a sustainable, socially just, and economically viable organization since its 1991 founding. The vision of providing youth opportunities to reconnect to the land has been achieved. Healthy food is sold at affordable rates and donated to those in need. The Food

---

<sup>4</sup> The Food Project Annual Report. (2012-2013). Available at [http://thefoodproject.org/sites/default/files/TFP\\_2012-2013\\_Annual%20Report%20FINAL.pdf](http://thefoodproject.org/sites/default/files/TFP_2012-2013_Annual%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)

Project raises awareness about safe gardening in urban areas and serves as a capacity-building resource for people worldwide. Their resource materials, youth training programs, and professional development opportunities are abundant.

### **CITY SLICKER FARMS**

City Slicker Farms (CSF) began in 2001 with a group of community members and volunteers. This West Oakland nonprofit of seven staff members has collaborated with more than 10,000 program participants and 2,500 volunteers to grow over 150,000 pounds of food since its inception. Healthy and affordable food has been provided to residents through urban farming and backyard garden programs of CSF. The organization continues to offer technical support to Bay Area cities to follow urban agriculture best practices. City Slicker Farms claims that its success is due to maintaining a narrow, focused vision with strategic, conservative growth.

The following programs are core to CSF: Community Market Farms, Backyard Gardens, bicycle compost pick-up, and Urban Farming Education. Produce from the six Community Market Farms is distributed at a weekly sliding-scale farm stand, which gives free produce to residents most in need. Others can afford to pay either below market or standard rate prices. Additional financial support is garnered through the sale of plants, which are grown in a greenhouse for both programs and for sale to the public. In 2012, the Market Farms harvested 9,340 pounds of produce for 1,680 people with a 96% satisfaction rate.<sup>5</sup>

The Backyard Gardens Program supports almost 1,700 community members to grow and harvest 25,000 pounds of food in 2012. Of the surveyed backyard gardeners that same year, 66% reported that their diets were healthier by eating produce from their garden. In addition to nutrition improvements, 97% of backyard garden participants saved money by growing their own food. The compost pick-up program retrieves free kitchen scraps from local restaurants, businesses and neighbors by bicycle and brings the waste back to their farms to compost.

In 2012, 25 volunteers and interns were part of the Urban Farming Education Program. More than 4,000 hours of assistance were gained from this program. The Youth Internship Program provides workforce training through summer jobs for youth. These positions amount to about eight hours a week on a stipend that is not more than \$100 weekly for about seven youth employees. City Slicker Farms has found that it is most effective and efficient to recruit similarly aged youth for their internship program to best tailor the training and curriculum to the group. In the last three years of this program, the goal has been for interns to return to CSF for multiple summers before they go to college. It has been difficult for CSF, however, to attain local applicants from the West Oakland community. Another challenge has been the amount of staff time required to successfully coordinate this program.

### **GROWING POWER**

Growing Power was founded in 1993 as a national nonprofit and land trust to provide better access to healthy, high-quality, affordable food for all. Since then, Will Allen, the founder of Growing Power and a MacArthur fellow, has become a national spokesperson for urban agriculture and creating a fair food system. Growing Power now has 21 employees, many of

---

<sup>5</sup> City Slicker Farms Annual Report. (2012). Available at: [http://www.cityslickerfarms.org/sites/default/files/cityslickerfarms\\_2012annualreport\\_emailversion.pdf](http://www.cityslickerfarms.org/sites/default/files/cityslickerfarms_2012annualreport_emailversion.pdf)



whom live in neighborhoods that Growing Power serves.

The organization hosts operations in Milwaukee and Chicago with more than 2,000 volunteers who help to provide healthy, affordable food for all. Growing Power has purchased as well as leased land from the city and private companies in order to combat food deserts. One site, for example, is located near a large affordable housing complex that is more than three miles to a grocery store. This particular farm project has over a dozen greenhouses, as well as beehives, hens, ducks, turkeys and goats. Raised bed gardening and hydroponics are techniques widely practiced by the organization to protect food from contaminated soil.

Like City Slicker Farms, Growing Power also procures large amounts of organic waste from local businesses (e.g. breweries) to use for its composting program, which produces more than 10 million pounds of compost annually with the help of many worms. Fertilizer is also used from farm-raised fish in aquaponic farming methods.

Food from Growing Power is distributed through retail stores, restaurants, farmers' markets, schools, and a CSA program that offers discounted shares to low-income families for \$16 a week. In addition to providing schools with produce, Growing Power also develops school and community gardens throughout the city, offering training, outreach and technical assistance across the country. Growing Power's training program could ideally partner with the Bay Area HUB in order to position the HUB to become a regional training program for low-income communities in the Bay Area and Northern California.

### **PLANTING JUSTICE**

This Oakland-based organization began in 2008 in order to serve low-income communities of color through edible landscaping. Planting Justice has eight staff that oversee four programs, including food justice education, grassroots canvassing, urban food forests, and green jobs creation. Weekly workshops are part of the curriculum and focus on not only food justice, but also culinary arts and permaculture design in everyday spaces (e.g. apartment complexes).

Planting Justice is a for-profit endeavor that plants edible landscaping on private property at a sliding scale. Designs can incorporate annual and perennial vegetables, fruit shrubs and trees, herbs, mushrooms, chicken coops, aquaculture, cob oven, compost system, greenhouses, rainwater harvesting and greywater systems. Consultation fees start at \$120.

A partnership with San Quentin State Prison has led to workforce development for inmates and job creation for released men. Within prison walls, Planting Justice has built a vegetable garden in which the produce is donated to low-income families in the Bay Area. Additionally, Planting Justice leads monthly gardening classes to provide men in prison with a working knowledge of food justice issues and transferrable job skills. Upon release, a select group of men are hired onto Planting Justice's landscaping teams with pay that starts at \$17.50 per hour.

### **ADDED VALUE FARM**

Since 2001, Added Value Farm's farmers' market and a CSA program have improved access to fresh food for the underserved neighborhood of Redhook in Brooklyn, New York. Not only does the CSA program operate on a sliding scale, but customers are also given the option to pay through work shares. The CSA sells produce from Added Value Farm's urban farm in addition to

fruit and eggs from regional rural farmers.

Added Value Farm's programs for youth development include year-long training to hundreds of neighborhood teenagers. Youth training offers food justice education, skills building, leadership development, and community engagement activities with the Red Hook Farmers' Market. Youth also participate in educational and advocacy activities through media projects and other events.

### **P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Based in Seattle, P-Patch is a community gardening program of the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods that oversees the growing of food on 13.5 acres of land throughout the city. P-Patch began in 1973 and has donated 25,000 pounds of fresh food to local food banks annually.

The Seattle Market Gardens Program is run through P-Patch and focuses on immigrant and refugee communities, helping these residents earn supplemental income while acclimating to the city. Newcomers receive training that honors the agrarian skills many immigrants and refugees bring with them, while teaching necessary business skills for succeeding in the United States, such as how and where to market their produce.

### **CLEAN GREENS**

Another Seattle nonprofit grows and sells its produce within the city through a CSA program and two farm stands. Clean Greens is owned and operated by city residents and donates a portion of the food they grow to local food banks.

### **THE DETROIT BLACK FOOD SECURITY NETWORK**

The Detroit Black Food Security Network engages African American community members to revitalize Detroit through urban agriculture. The Network also helps to connect urban youth with elders, who help younger generations learn about their food culture. Awareness about food, where it's sourced, what entities control it, and how food contributes to community building are all part of the Network's training initiatives.

The organization developed a four-acre organic urban farm and a food co-op buying club. By providing a unified leadership voice, the Network has helped influence policy changes, such as the creation of the Detroit Black Food Policy Council and a food security policy. Purchasing leased land and encouraging public agencies to buy local foods are other pieces of legislation that the Network is pursuing. The Network provides guidance to Undoing Racism in the Detroit Food System Initiative and has also been selected as the Detroit Regional Outreach Training Center for Growing Power.

### **NUESTRAS RAÍCES**

Nuestras Raíces ("Our Roots") aims to help the 40% Puerto Rican immigrant community of Holyoke, Massachusetts in transcending historic economic decline. The town has struggled with high unemployment and poverty since its industrial downturn in the 1960s and 1970s. Among abandoned buildings in Holyoke, there are also close to 100 abandoned brownfields.

In 1992, Nuestras Raíces started with one community garden. Today, the organization manages eight community gardens and two youth gardens. The gardens increase access to an average of \$1,000 worth of produce a year for low-income families. Food grown also supplements incomes

through sales to local stores, restaurants and farmers' markets.

New farmers participate in eight weeks of training and learn how to write a business plan. Once they complete their training and business plan, they can then rent plots from Nuestras Raíces. La Finca farmers (a program of Nuestras Raíces) are provided with small loans, additional trainings, shared resources, and marketing help. Finally, Nuestras Raíces helps farmers find land and capital to open their own farms.

Currently more than 100 participating families and residents lead Nuestras Raíces' programs, such as green jobs training, environmental education, entrepreneurship, and youth leadership development. Many youth work at farmers' markets, create nature trails, and take part in garden-centered environmental research and education programs. Additionally, youth can farm rent-free, and there is a designated youth farm with curriculum for them to learn farming techniques from elder Puerto Rican volunteers. As a result, youth have been able to learn about ancestral agrarian backgrounds and cultural heritage from their elders. By bridging the age gap, Nuestras Raíces has built a strong community that spurs positive change. Crime has decreased in the Puerto Rican community while employment and youth leadership has increased.

In addition to aiding in the creation of urban agriculture projects and training programs, Nuestras Raíces' has developed over 24 food and agriculture businesses that have generated over \$2 million a year in southern Holyoke. A shared community kitchen is based in a transformed (formerly) abandoned building. The Centro Agrícola is a community center for small-scale business development and can be rented to create food products on a small scale for operations like catering.

### **EAST NEW YORK FARMS**

East New York Farms Project of Brooklyn, New York manages 12 community gardens where younger gardeners help seniors who are no longer able to garden on their own. Many of these seniors are on food stamps and their garden plots are essential to supplementing their income and diet with healthy food. Since most of the older gardeners are of African American, Caribbean, Puerto Rican, Bengali and West African descent, East New York Farms ensures that culturally relevant food is grown.

This urban agriculture initiative is a project of the United Community Centers, a social change community-based organization of East New York, Brooklyn. The project began in 1998 to address large numbers of vacant lots, poverty and high crime rates. A series of community forums determined that the community most needed safe public green spaces, fresh food, and better opportunities for youth. Programs of East New York Farms include community education, two urban farms, two farmers' markets, a discounted CSA program, and a nine-month youth internship program with 20 participants.

### **GREEN CITY GROWERS COOPERATIVE**

This for-profit cooperative was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 2012. The cooperative includes a \$17 million 3.25-acre hydroponic greenhouse that grows leafy greens and herbs for sale to farmers' markets, grocery stores and wholesale produce businesses. Other local institutions, such as hospitals, have expressed interest in buying from Green City Growers. The cooperative expects to provide 42 long-term jobs for residents living in the surrounding area who will have

the option to become worker-owners.

### **GROWING HOME**

Since 2002, this Chicago organization has trained approximately 400 individuals on its farms in and around the city. Most of the trainees were formerly homeless or incarcerated. Knowing that homelessness is perpetuated by a lack of living wages and a lack of purpose, Growing Home provides jobs and a direct connection with nature. Through organic farming, participants develop a sense of stability, responsibility and confidence. The majority of training graduates break free of the jail cycle, are able to find stable housing, and obtain either full-time work or further job training.

Growing Home owns their land through the McKinney Act, which offers federal surplus land to organizations working with homeless populations. It also acts as a social enterprise where produce is sold through a CSA operation and at farmers' markets.

### **JUST FOOD**

Just Food in New York has an adult farm school that provides professional training in urban agriculture through a two-year certificate program. This non-profit organization connects urban agriculture projects and local farms with the resources and support they need to grow local produce that is accessible for all New Yorkers. Just Food empowers regional farmers, food producers, CSA organizers and everyday citizens to establish and experience healthy food systems in every neighborhood.

### **MANDELA MARKETPLACE**

*Mandela Marketplace buys produce from local farmers and sells it to small grocery stores, corner stores, and community co-ops in Oakland.* Mandela Foods Co-op, a worker-owned market, is among the recipients for delivered food from Mandela Marketplace. Produce from Mandela Marketplace is often less expensive than produce sold by large-scale distributors. This cooperative buying model benefits local farms as well as low-income communities of color it exists to serve.

### **LA GREEN GROUNDS**

With a beginning in 2010, LA Green Grounds has planted 27 edible gardens in food desert communities of South Los Angeles. Composed of gardeners from all over the city, LA Green Grounds is completely volunteer-run. All produce is grown in converted residential front yards and is free for everyone in the neighborhood.

### **URBAN TILTH**

With a staff of 12, Urban Tilth serves schools, community based organizations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals of West Contra Costa County. The organization's goal is to produce 5% of the county's food supply using permaculture principles as well as training and employing local community members. Urban Tilth has nearly a dozen farms and gardens and provides technical assistance to churches in the area. The CSA program is run by youth and local residents as a nonprofit project, and offers discounted shares to low-income households.

### **GREENSGROW FARMS**

In Philadelphia, Greensgrow Farms began in 1997 and garners over \$1 million in annual revenue

with a staff of six. Support for the farming operation is raised through sales of nursery plants, CSA shares, a farm stand, and mobile markets.

### **PEOPLE'S GROCERY**

People's Grocery aims to improve the health and local economy of West Oakland by addressing the issue of healthy food inaccessibility in low-income neighborhoods. The nonprofit has a 2-acre farm and two gardens that provide produce to their farm stands, mobile truck markets, and their CSA-like "Grub Box" program. Programming includes youth development, nutrition education, sustainable agriculture, and social enterprise. The People's Grocery is planning to open a full-service grocery store in the very near future.

### **PHAT BEETS PRODUCE**

Phat Beets Produce started as a collective in 2007 and focuses on the North Oakland community to improve its health and local economy through a CSA program, two farmers' markets, a youth-run school farm stand, and a co-op. Programmatic plans for 2014 include starting a mobile food truck program. The mission of Phat Beets includes access to affordable produce, youth leadership, and connecting small farmers to urban communities through Phat Beets' programs.

### **URBAN ROOTS**

Urban Roots in Austin, Texas was launched in 2007 and its primary focus is on youth development through sustainable agriculture. A 3.5-acre urban farm is the training ground for paid interns aged 14-17 for 25 weeks. Twenty-seven interns and three crew leaders are hired each year and are trained through workshops on sustainable agriculture, healthy living, job skills, and food justice.

With an annual goal of growing 30,000 pounds of produce, 40% is donated to local food pantries and soup kitchens, while 60% is sold through farmers' markets, CSA shares and wholesale. The farm itself remains closed to the public outside of volunteer days and events.

### **GROW DAT**

As a project of Tulane University and Tulane City Center, Grow Dat in New Orleans provides successful models of engaging youth in paid urban agriculture apprenticeships. The project began in 2011 and has a staff of six in addition to 40 youth interns 16-years-old and older who manage a 7.2-acre farm. Limited part-time positions in agriculture, administration, and education and outreach are available to interns once they graduate from the program.

### **THE GARDEN PROJECT**

The Garden Project, founded by Catherine Sneed in 1992, maintains land on San Francisco streets, in the Crystal Springs Watershed, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and on San Francisco PUC land in San Bruno. The San Francisco County Jail in San Bruno cultivates plants to use in public works projects. The Project is funded by the PUC, the San Francisco Police Department, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to empower at-risk youth and low-income young adults through job training on urban agriculture and landscaping sites. There are two apprentice programs: one for high school students and one for young adults who enroll in the three-year program. All harvested produce is donated to local food pantries.

### **ACTA NON VERBA**

Established in 2010, Acta Non Verba farm works with youth to plant, distribute and sell food at a

farm stand and through a CSA program to underserved communities in Oakland. Youth education and workforce development are the main priorities of the organization, and projects increase in complexity as youth progress through the program. Local low-income students between the ages of 5 to 17 are the targeted participants for Acta Non Verba. The farm also organizes educational camp programs during school breaks.

#### **HOMELESS GARDEN PROJECT**

The Homeless Garden Project, based in Santa Cruz, is a 3-acre organic farm that has provided job training, transitional employment, support and resources for homeless people since 1990. Incomes are supplemented through a CSA program and the sale of value-added products, such as flowers, to local businesses. Educational workshops for all ages take place on the farm on a weekly basis.

## Appendix D: Community Feedback

A community meeting was held at the Bayview library from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm on Thursday, January 16. About 15 people attended and listened to the preliminary urban agriculture report findings. This was an open forum discussion with involved residents who wanted to be part of the recommendations process. Their opinions and suggestions were solicited as a group and also in a Dotmocracy activity, in which they voted on the recommendations they most and least agreed with (including additional suggested recommendations). Results from this meeting informed the urban agriculture display and activity for the January 25, 2014 SEFA convening at the Bayview Opera House. This activity involved soliciting further input from community members on the direction for urban agriculture in BVHP.

### Dotmocracy Activity Results: January 16, 2014

This activity required participants to place a dot in one column of their choice for each recommendation. The five columns were strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree. Participants were given the opportunity to add their own recommendations and these were also assessed, although fewer participants responded to the new recommendations.

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
IA Create a unified agriculture vision and focus to define urban agriculture's purpose in BVHP	7	1	1		
IB Establish an urban agriculture Community Network	4		6		
IC Increase resident and volunteer engagement in urban agriculture	3	5	1		
ID Develop free educational programs and training opportunities that meet community needs	3		4		1
IE Assess interest & ideas for community use of PUC resources & work with PUC to implement	2		1	1	3
IIA With steering committee help, identify and coordinate resources available		4	2		
IIB Network & collaborate with similar organizations, agencies and initiatives	3	2	2	1	1
IIC Work with city and private funders to develop sustainable funding for BVHP urban ag	4	3	1		

IIIA Foster economic development projects to build capacity of community based organizations & generate supplemental income for individuals

9 3

IIIB Build on workforce development efforts in BVHP to address high unemployment rates and large number of youth in the community

8 4 2 2

### Additional Recommendations from Participants

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
4. Work with PUC to reduce cost of water for gardeners & receive sewage sludge for garden use	1	2			
5. Work with and support existing organizations & promote leadership from people of color	2	1			
6. All BVHP urban ag program work together to cultivate one large area together		1	2		
7. Take turns working in each other's gardens	2		1		

### Additional Comments from Participants

1. Hire Black/African American, Chinese & API, Spanish speaking Latino organizers or contract with faith-based organizations who have experience working with these populations. There needs to be outreach materials in Chinese, Spanish and major languages common in BVHP.
2. Combine health and food related activities (food pantry, exercise and cooking classes) in our garden settings.
3. Prioritize connections with cultures and use urban agriculture as a strategy for healing trauma, health inequities and displacement.
4. Nothing should be free. People don't need to feel like they are getting a hand-out or that there's no value in gardening. We should invest in agriculture and our local economy.
5. Hold a conference for elders in 94124. Utilize elders knowledge to mentor the youth.



## **Appendix E: Further Resources**

### **Planning Resources**

[Community Toolbox: Toolkits for Community Work](#)

[Human Impact Partners](#)

[Organizing Toolkit](#)

### **Urban Agriculture Resources**

[Food Desert Locator](#)

[Tips for starting urban agriculture projects](#)

### **Videos**

[Equitable Strategies for Growing Urban Agriculture \(webinar\)](#)

[Added Value's Red Hook Community Farm](#)

[Planting Seeds: A Garden for Inner City Youth](#)

[Growing Power](#)

### **Urban Agriculture Initiatives**

[Added Value Farm](#)

[Agriculture and Land Based Training Association](#)

[American Community Gardening Association](#)

[Appalachian Sustainable Development](#)

[City Farmer News](#)

[City Slicker Farms](#)

[Clean Greens](#)

[Cleveland's Green Corp](#)

[Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#)

[Community Food Security Coalition](#)

[East Bay Asian Youth Center](#)

[East New York Farms!](#)

[The Garden Project](#)

[Gardening for Greenbacks](#)

[Green City Growers Cooperative](#)

[Greensgrow Farms](#)

[Growing Home](#)

[Growing Power](#)

[Latino Farmers Cooperative of Louisiana](#)

[Mandela Foods Co-op](#)

[National Young Farmers Coalition](#)

[NeighborSpace](#)

[Nuestras Raíces](#)

[P Patch Community Gardens](#)

[Public Health Law and Policy](#)

[Rooted in Community](#) (youth development and food justice)

[Roots of Change](#)

[Southside Community Land Trust](#)  
[State Extension Services](#)  
[National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#)  
[Sustainable Food Center](#)  
[Sustainable Table](#)  
[The Detroit Black Food Security Network](#)  
[The Food Project](#)  
[The Food Trust](#)  
[The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#)  
[The Seattle Market Gardens Program](#)  
[Urban Farming](#)  
[Urban Gardens](#)  
[Urban Roots Community Garden Center](#)  
[Urban Tilth](#)  
[Viet Village](#)  
[Wallace Center](#)  
[Wholesome Wave: Nourishing Neighborhoods Across America](#)  
[L.A. Green Grounds](#)  
[People's Grocery](#)

### **Funding Programs and Resources**

[Department of Agriculture Business and Industry Loan Program](#)  
[Department of Agriculture Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program](#)  
[Department of Agriculture Know Your Farmer Know Your Food](#)  
[Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)  
[Department of Agriculture Value-Added Producer Grants Program](#)  
[Department of Housing and Urban Development Brownfields Economic Development Initiative](#)  
[Department of Housing and Urban Development Neighborhood Stabilization Program](#)  
[Department of Justice Second Chance Reentry Grants](#)  
[Department of Labor Federal Bonding Program](#)  
[Department of Labor Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#)  
[Department of Treasury New Markets Tax Credit Program](#)

The [American Community Gardening Association](#) offers a listing of funding opportunities as does the USDA's [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) (NIFA). This agency can also provide technical assistance through its [extension programs](#), which provide research and educational assistance to help farmers and gardeners. Other extension programs include [UMass Amherst](#), the most utilized and well-known program, the [College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley](#) and [University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension](#) program. Unfortunately funding for extension programs has been waning drastically over the years, which restricts offered services or has resulted in program closures across the country.

### **Model Policies**

[Berkeley](#) and [Seattle](#) have developed urban agriculture-friendly policies with an equity

focus in their general plans.

[Land Use and Planning Policies](#) for United States Cities

## Readings & Recordings

Bibliography of [Participatory Research in Food](#)

[The Grocery Gap: Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why it Matters](#). PolicyLink and The Food Trust, 2010.

[Kansas City Pioneers New Models for Urban Farms](#). Breaking Through Concrete Team. Grist, 2010.

[Philadelphia's Urban Farming Roots Go Deep and Are Spreading](#). Tom Laskawy, 2010. Practice Urban Gardening Zoning Practice. Nina Mukherji and Alfonso Morales. American Planning Association, Issue No. 3, March 2010.

[Recipes for Change: Healthy Food in Every Community](#). Linda Shak, et al., Prevention Institute, 2010.

[Reclaiming Abandoned Homes and Vacant Lots](#). Neil Conan. National Public Radio, November 10, 2010.

[Rust Belt Cities Demolish Homes as Defaults Blight Neighborhoods](#). Brian Lous, 2010.

[Cleveland's For-profit Urban Gardens Are Growing](#). Marty Sterpka. 2009.

[Hard Row to Hoe: Can Local Food Movement Save Farmers? Courtney Stuart. The Hook, 2009.](#)

[How Does Your Garden Grow? Brownfields Redevelopment and Local Urban Gardens](#). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2009.

[Vitalizing the Vacant. The Logistics and Benefits of Middle-to-Large-Scale Agricultural Production on Urban Land](#). Annie Myers. May 2008.

[Can Virginia Communities and Counties Seize an Economic and Social Opportunity with Farm-Based Local and Regional Economic Development?](#) Eric Bendfeldt and Kenner Love. Virginia Cooperative Extension Bulletin, 2007.

[Farming in Philadelphia: Feasibility Analysis and Next Steps Executive Summary](#). Urban Partners, 2007.

[The Cornfield: New Ideas for a Sustainable Urban Park](#). Michael Woo. 2007.

[The Effect of Community Gardens on Neighboring Property Values](#). Vicki Been and Ioan Voicu. New York University Law and Economics Working Papers, Paper 46, 2006.

[On Crime as Science \(a Neighbor at a Time\)](#). Dan Hurley. *New York Times*, January 6, 2004.

[Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe: Urban Planning and Food Security](#). Anne Carter and Peter Mann, 2003.

[Health Benefits of Urban Agriculture](#). Anne C. Bellows, et al., Community Food Security Coalition, 2003.

[Community Gardens: Lessons Learned from California Healthy Cities and Communities](#), Joan Twiss, et al., 2003.

---

<sup>i</sup> Ploeg, MV et al. (2009). Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food—Measuring and Understanding Food Deserts and Their Consequences: Report to Congress (Administrative Publication No. AP-036) (p. 160). United States Department of Agriculture - Economic

---

Research Service. Retrieved from <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ap-administrative-publication/ap-036.aspx#.UvGYzfv5Bm0>

ii Walker RE, Keane CR, Burke JG. (2010). Disparities and access to healthy food in the United States: A review of food deserts literature. *Health Place*, 16(4), 876-884.

iii Holt-Giménez E, Wang Y (2011). Reform or Transformation? The Pivotal Role of Food Justice in the U.S. Food Movement. *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts*, 5(1), 83-102.

iv Weissbourd R, Berry C. (1999). The market potential of inner-city neighborhoods: Filling the information gap (p. 25). Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, the Brookings Institution.