

Urban Farm & Nutrition Education Nonprofit

Growing Healthy Futures: Expanding Experiential Nutrition Education for [REDACTED] Youth
Grant Proposal to [REDACTED]

Amount Requested	\$75,000
Total Project Budget	\$150,000
Grant Period	12 months
Applicant	[REDACTED]

Statement of Need

For children growing up in [REDACTED], healthy eating is shaped by more than individual choice. Access to nutritious food, opportunities to learn how food is grown and prepared, and regular exposure to healthy eating habits all influence the choices young people are equipped to make. Food insecurity and health disparities remain persistent challenges in the community, creating a need for interventions that pair access to healthy food with practical, engaging education.

[REDACTED] addresses this challenge by bringing food and nutrition education out of the textbook and into children's everyday experience. Through urban farms that function as living classrooms, young people plant and harvest food, learn about nutrition and sustainability, prepare healthy foods, and develop a tangible understanding of the relationship between food and their own health.

Demand for this programming continues to grow. [REDACTED] served more than 30,500 children and community members in FY2025-26 - a 30 percent increase over the previous year - and delivered more than 1,100 hands-on lessons in nutrition, agriculture, wellness, and environmental education. Its after-school programming is also expanding, creating an opportunity to reach more [REDACTED] children with sustained experiential nutrition education.

With support from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] will build on this proven model by expanding structured after-school food, nutrition, and urban-agriculture education to two additional [REDACTED] sites, reaching approximately 300 additional young people during the 12-month grant period.

Project Description

Growing Healthy Futures will extend [REDACTED] experiential education model to approximately 300 additional young people through two new after-school program sites in [REDACTED].

Over the 12-month grant period, participating youth will engage in 24 structured sessions integrating urban agriculture, nutrition, food preparation, environmental education, and wellness. Rather than treating these subjects as separate lessons, the program will connect them through hands-on experiences: participants will grow and harvest food, explore how food choices affect health, prepare nutritious foods, and learn about the environmental systems that shape the food they eat.

Programming will be delivered by trained [REDACTED] educators using the organization's established experiential curriculum and urban agricultural resources. The expansion will complement [REDACTED] existing partnerships with [REDACTED] schools and its broader network of farms, food-distribution programs, and community education.

Goals and Objectives

1. Expand structured experiential nutrition education to two additional [REDACTED] after-school sites.
2. Provide approximately 300 additional youth with 24 hands-on food, nutrition, agriculture, and wellness sessions.
3. Increase participants' knowledge of nutrition and food systems and strengthen their willingness and confidence to make healthy food choices.

Expected Outcomes and Evaluation

[REDACTED] will measure both program delivery and changes experienced by participating youth.

During the 12-month grant period, the project expects to enroll approximately 300 youth across two additional after-school sites; provide each participant with up to 24 hands-on learning sessions; have at least 80 percent of participants demonstrate increased knowledge of nutrition, food systems, and urban agriculture; and have at least 70 percent of participants report greater willingness to try or choose nutritious foods.

██████████ will track enrollment, attendance, and completed sessions to measure program reach and implementation. Age-appropriate pre- and post-program assessments will measure changes in participants' knowledge of nutrition and food systems, while participant surveys and educator observations will assess changes in attitudes toward healthy foods and engagement with the curriculum.

Program staff will review results during the grant period to identify differences in participation and outcomes across sites and make adjustments when needed. At the conclusion of the project, ██████████ will compare results against established targets and use the findings to strengthen future program delivery and expansion.

Organizational Capacity

██████████ has spent 15 years developing and scaling an experiential approach to youth nutrition, agriculture, and wellness education rooted in the ██████████ community. What began in 2011 with one community garden and 400 students has grown into a network encompassing 14 urban agricultural sites, five partner schools, three after-school programs, and three year-round farm stands.

In FY2025-26 alone, ██████████ served more than 30,500 children and community members, delivered more than 1,100 hands-on lessons, and distributed nearly 214,000 pounds of fresh produce. This combination of educational programming, agricultural infrastructure, school partnerships, and community food access gives ██████████ the capacity to expand programming without building a new delivery model from scratch.

The proposed project builds directly on this existing expertise and infrastructure. ██████████ established curriculum, trained educators, school and community relationships, and urban farms provide the foundation needed to add program capacity while maintaining the hands-on approach at the center of its model.

Sustainability

██████████ support will allow ██████████ to establish programming at two additional after-school sites while demonstrating the reach and outcomes of the expanded model.

During the grant period, ██████████ will incorporate the new sites into its broader education infrastructure, including curriculum, educator training, program management, and evaluation systems. The organization will use participation and outcome data from the expansion to strengthen the case for continued support from public, foundation, corporate, and individual funding partners.

By investing in expansion through ██████████ existing program infrastructure rather than creating a stand-alone initiative, the project is designed to become part of the organization's ongoing youth-education portfolio. ██████████ will pursue diversified funding to sustain successful programming beyond the Trust's grant period.

Project Budget

Expense	Total Project	NYCT Request	Other Funding
Program educators	\$55,000	\$35,000	\$20,000
Program manager allocation	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Curriculum & educational materials	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$4,000
Food & cooking supplies	\$15,000	\$8,000	\$7,000
Urban agriculture supplies	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Evaluation & data collection	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Transportation/site logistics	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Administrative/indirect costs	\$20,000	-	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Budget Narrative

The total cost of the 12-month Growing Healthy Futures expansion is \$150,000. [REDACTED] requests \$75,000 from [REDACTED], representing 50 percent of the project budget. The remaining \$75,000 will be supported through other foundation, corporate, individual, and organizational resources.

Program Personnel - \$75,000. Personnel represents the project's largest investment and includes program educators responsible for preparing and delivering hands-on nutrition, agriculture, food-preparation, and wellness programming, as well as a portion of program-management costs associated with implementation and oversight of the two-site expansion.

Curriculum and Program Supplies - \$37,000. Funding will support educational materials, food and cooking supplies, and urban-agriculture materials necessary to provide experiential programming to approximately 300 participating youth.

Evaluation - \$8,000. Evaluation costs support participant assessment, data collection, outcome tracking, and analysis used to measure changes in nutrition and food-systems knowledge and attitudes toward healthy foods.

Transportation and Site Logistics - \$10,000. These funds support transportation and logistical expenses associated with delivering programming across the two additional after-school sites and [REDACTED] urban agricultural resources.

Administrative and Indirect Costs - \$20,000. These costs represent the project's proportionate share of organizational infrastructure necessary to support program delivery, including finance, administration, technology, facilities, insurance, and organizational oversight.

[REDACTED] \$75,000 investment will be directed primarily toward program personnel and direct implementation expenses, allowing [REDACTED] to leverage an additional \$75,000 to complete the expansion.