



Program #10018B - Food Access Focus FY 2024 Proposed

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** John Wasitynski
Program Offer Type: New **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares (CROPS) is a Multnomah County initiative that began in 2009 and was established to address hunger, a growing public health concern, and its links to obesity and chronic diseases. The CROPS Farm, now under the management of Mudbone Grown, will become a hub for community access to fresh culturally appropriate food, and for culturally specific training of new farmers with a particular focus on Black and African immigrant farmers.

Program Description

In CY 2021 the County officially awarded a 5-year license for the use of the CROPS site to MudBone Grown, a local Black owned farming business specializing in growing organically grown food, and providing farm training to people who are Black, African, Indigenous and veterans. MudBone will operate the CROPS site as an incubator farm for beginning farmers and as a community training site.

In order to fulfill our goals of increasing access to culturally appropriate organically grown food and offering access to economic development opportunities for historically marginalized and discriminated against groups, particularly in relation to farm-land access, the site must be improved with farm infrastructure. The funds will support the creation of farm buildings, irrigation, greenhouse(s), access to electricity, and other related capital expenses that will allow new farmers to have access to a turn-key farm operation. This aspect of the project will be important because new farmers, particularly Black farmers, often lack access to land, and farm equipment and other infrastructure when beginning their business and building a market for their agricultural products.

The project will also integrate with the Multnomah County Health Department REACH program, helping to promote healthy, fresh, locally grown, and culturally appropriate fruits and vegetables through “prescription CSA shares” and institutional procurement. To date, the county has installed municipal water connection, irrigation infrastrucutre, completed demolition work, and is in the process of completing constuction drawings and obtaining permits. We anticipate the construction of the access road and community-orchard to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year, FY 2023. In FY 2024 we anticipate construction of the barn and greenhouse to be completed..

Also, starting this spring, MudBone will begin sub-leasing to begining farmers now that irrigation infrastrucutre has been installed.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of farmers using CROPS	0	4	3	4
Outcome	Increase number of Black farmers in Multnomah County	0.27%	1%	0.27%	1%
Output	Volunteer hours	128	1,000	500	1,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

According to the USDA only 0.27% of all farmers in MultCo identify as Black. This small percentage is the result of hundreds of years of discriminatory practices by governments, especially the Federal Government. This project is a deliberate attempt to increase farm training, economic development and access to farmland for Black and African farmers, while also increasing access to fresh, local, organically grown produce and opportunities for culturally specific community enqaement in a farm setting for people who are food insecure.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The County will utilize existing contracts and cooperative contracts to complete this work.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Contractual Services	\$0	\$500,000	\$400,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$500,000	\$400,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$500,000		\$400,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

In FY 2023, this program was funded with Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding.
In FY 2024, this program is funded with one-time-only General Fund.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 10094 ARP Office of Sustainability Food Access Focus

The program supports community recovery by promoting economic opportunity through access to farmland for beginning farmers and training opportunities, particularly in greenhouse propagation, for Black and African Immigrant farmers. The program will also address the ongoing issue of food insecurity through partnerships with the Health Department REACH program to increase prescription-CSA and institutional food purchases of local, culturally appropriate, organically grown produce.

Increased funding for improvements to the barn, road, parking, and greenhouse.