

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** John Wasitynski

Program Offer Type: Capital **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: New Request, 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, is becoming 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. New farmer training and access to land and equipment are key programmatic features.

Program Description

In CY 2021 the County officially awarded a 5-year license, with an option for a 5-year extension, 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 operates the CROPS site as an incubator farm for beginning farmers and as a community training site.

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 concerning farm-land access, the site is being improved with farm infrastructure. The funds will support the completion of infrastructure projects, especially electricity that will allow for site security, a greenhouse, and other infrastructure 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, farm equipment, and other forms of capital 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, and irrigation infrastructure, completed demolition work, and is in the process of constructing a barn and access driveway. These funds will support the addition of electrical utilities that can support farm operations, including refrigeration, greenhouse, and other electrically powered infrastructure. Mudbone, in addition to commercial operations, also runs extensive charitable food distribution through two community food pantries and events.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Outcome	Number of farmers using CROPS	5	4	5	5
Outcome	Increase number of Black farmers in Multnomah County	166%	100%	166%	100%
Output	Volunteer hours	400	1,000	800	1,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

According to the USDA, the number of Black Farmers increased from 3 in 2017 to 8 in the 2022 farm census. Because of hundreds of years of discriminatory practices by governments, the number of Black farmers is low. 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 engagement in a farm setting.

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	2024	2024	2025	2025
Contractual Services	\$400,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$400,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$400,000		\$200,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues			
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

In both FY 2024 and FY 2025, this program was funded with one-time-only General Fund.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 10018B 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, grounds, and electricity utility.