

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** John Wasitynski
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As 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 Summary

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. In the current FY 2022 year we anticipate to have water connection (separately funded), site design and design and permitting of farm structures to all be completed or commence before the end of the fiscal year. Actual construction of a barn, however, will take place in FY 2023.

Also, starting this spring, MudBone will begin to cultivate crops that need minimal irrigation, since water service to the location has not yet been established.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of farmers using CROPS	N/A	4	1	4
Outcome	Increase number of Black farmers in Multnomah County	N/A	1%	0.27%	1%
Output	Volunteer hours	N/A	1,000	100	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 engagement 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	2022	2022	2023	2023
Contractual Services	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Program Total:	\$200,000		\$200,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000

Explanation of Revenues

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding - \$200,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 10094 ARP Office of Sustainability Food Access Focus

This program offer falls under the County's Crisis Response & Community Recovery ARP Priority Area. 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.