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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mid-Ohio Foodbank Awards \$150,000 in Urban Agriculture Grants**

***13 Local Farms, Gardens Receive Funding Made Possible by USDA***

GROVE CITY, OH -- Mid-Ohio Foodbank is awarding more than \$150,000 to 13 local urban farms and community gardens to improve food security by providing more low-income households greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables through sustainable urban farming activities.

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service through the People's Garden Initiative. This is the second year of the grant.

"These grantees are dedicated to engaging the community to fight blight, educate about healthy eating and how to grow food, build neighborhood involvement, and improve the urban ecology," said Matt Habash, president and CEO of Mid-Ohio Foodbank. "We are excited to see what comes next for these projects."

Awards were determined by a review committee who used a standardized rubric to evaluate applications.

Habash credited Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, D-Columbus, in helping to secure the USDA grant.

**2018 Urban Agriculture Grantees**

- **Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden:** Grant funding will support Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden grow and sell fresh produce for \$1 per pound to low-income residents. Funds will be used to extend the production season with a high-tunnel, increase production by installing an irrigation system, and protect the production space by installing a fence.  
<https://telosinc.org/>
- **Foraged & Sown:** Grant funding will support Foraged & Sown grow and donate fresh produce to area food pantries, as well as grow and sell a tea blend, earning revenue that will be reinvested into a local farmer's market match program for low-income seniors. Funds will be used to increase capacity to harvest, process, and store herbs and vegetables, as well for expanding vegetable production with the acquisition of needed tools and installation of new irrigation.  
<http://www.foragedandsown.com/>

- **Freshtown Farms:** Grant funding will support Freshtown Farms grow and provide fresh produce to south side residents via an on-site farm stand and donations to area food pantries. Funds will be used to extend the production season with caterpillar tunnels, increase production by installing an irrigation system, and protect the production space and establish a safe environment by installing a fence.  
<https://freshtownfarm.com/>
- **Happy Toes Homestead:** Grant funding will support Happy Toes Homestead grow and provide fresh produce to SNAP customers at local farmers markets and by donating produce to low-income individuals. Funds will be used to increase overall productivity of this new farm site by installing an irrigation system.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Happytoeshomestead/>
- **Harriet Gardens:** Grant funding will support Harriet Gardens grow and provide fresh produce to SNAP customers at local farmers markets, as well as an on-site farm stand. Funds will be used to expand tomato production and extend the production season with a high-tunnel and growing supplies.  
[http://www.instagram.com/harriet\\_gardens](http://www.instagram.com/harriet_gardens)
- **Highland Youth Garden:** Grant funding will support Highland Youth Garden educate and provide fresh produce to children and youth from the Hilltop. Funds will be used to outfit a high-tunnel to operate automatically, utilize vertical space for vegetable production, and support seed starting.  
<http://highlandyouthgarden.org/>
- **Magic House Farms:** Grant funding will support Magic House Farms beautify and grow produce on formerly vacant land while providing fresh produce to retail outlets and individuals in Franklinton. Funds will be used to beautify parcels and to enhance productivity by installing an irrigation system.  
<https://www.magichousefarms.com/>
- **Mother's Peace Urban Farm:** Grant funding will support Mother's Peace Urban Farm grow and provide fresh produce to homeless families and refugees while teaching individuals how to prepare healthy meals. Funds will be used to extend the production season with a high-tunnel and growing supplies.  
<http://motherspeacefarm.us/>
- **Over the Fence Urban Farm:** Grant funding will support Over the Fence Urban Farm grow and provide fresh produce to low income families and engage farmers market vendors to collect 'seconds' as well. Funds will be used to enhance the growing environment by making improvements to an existing high-tunnels.  
<https://overthefenceurbanfarm.com/>

- **Second Baptist Community Garden:** Grant funding will support Second Baptist Community Garden grow and provide fresh produce to Near East Side residents through an on-site food pantry and community events. Funds will be used to enhance the irrigation system, protect the garden from animals, and acquire needed growing supplies.  
[www.secondbaptistcolumbus.com](http://www.secondbaptistcolumbus.com)
- **South Side Community Action Network (SSCAN):** Grant funding will support SSCAN engage the community to grow and provide south side residents fresh produce. Funds will be used to enhance production by installing water and an irrigation system, electricity, and constructing an outdoor community pavilion.
- **Stoddart Avenue Community Garden:** Grant funding will support Stoddart Avenue Community Gardeners have plots for individuals to grow their own food and make donations to area food pantries and homeless shelters. Funds will be used to enhance production by installing water and an irrigation system.  
<http://stoddartgarden.blogspot.com/>
- **Sunbury Urban Farm:** Grant funding will support Sunbury Urban Farm educate day camp students on growing food and healthy eating while also growing food for individuals and area food pantries. Funds will be used to extend production with a high-tunnel, enhance production by installing utilities, a wash station for produce, and seed starting space.  
<https://sunburyurbanfarm.wixsite.com/farm>

## About Mid-Ohio Foodbank

**Mid-Ohio Foodbank** works in community to connect our hungry neighbors with nutritious food, stabilizing families today while helping them access resources for tomorrow so they can thrive for a lifetime. The Foodbank is the largest hunger-relief organization in central and eastern Ohio. We acquire donated food from manufacturers, produce growers, retailers, food drives and businesses across Ohio and the country. We also receive food commodities through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Ohio. The Foodbank partners with an agency network comprised of some 650 local charities across 20 counties to provide food directly to people in need. [Midohiofoodbank.org](http://Midohiofoodbank.org) or follow us on Twitter @mid\_OHFoodbank.

## About the grant

Funding to Mid-Ohio Foodbank to make these grants in support of projects has been provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) pursuant to award number 68-5E34-798 and CFDA number 10.902 (the "award").