Building sustainable urban farms, community gardens, and small-scale agriculture projects in the City of Columbus

In 2017, Mid-Ohio Foodbank partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as administrator of almost $1.2 million of grants for local, urban agriculture projects. Funding to Mid-Ohio Foodbank to make these grants was provided by The USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

By awarding grants to assist local projects, Mid-Ohio Foodbank is furthering its mission of ending hunger, one nourishing meal at a time and co-creating thriving communities -- helping low-income neighborhoods more readily access fresh produce.

A special thank you goes to USDA for providing these funds and to Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Columbus for shepherding this initiative through the federal government grant system and into neighborhoods in Columbus.

These grants and resulting projects would not have been possible without this support, commitment, and stewardship!
Non-profit urban farms within Columbus were encouraged to apply and grants were made each year in 2017, 2018, and 2019 for those meeting the stated goals of the grant program.

Below are the grantees and how they are working to provide fresh produce to Columbus neighborhoods and families struggling to put food on their tables.

**Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden**
1200 Brentnell Ave. Columbus, OH 43219
https://telosinc.org

**2018 Grant Recipient**
Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden works to grow and sell fresh produce for $1 per pound to low-income residents and extending the production season with a high-tunnel, increasing production with an irrigation system, and fencing installation.

**Columbus Center for Human Services, Inc**
540 Industrial Mile Rd. Columbus, OH 43228
https://cchsohio.org

**2019 Grant Recipient**
Support expansion of a garden program that educates and engages individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. Produce is consumed by program participants and distributed to low-income neighbors through more raised beds, a rain water catchment system, and tools for program participants.

**Foraged & Sown**
1224 E Cooke Rd., Columbus, OH 43224
www.foragedandsown.com

**2018 Grant Recipient**
Support work to grow and donate fresh produce to area food pantries; to grow and sell a tea blend, earning revenue to be reinvested into a local farmer’s market match program for low-income seniors. And, for expanding vegetable production with the acquisition of needed tools and installation of new irrigation.

**2019 Grant Recipient**
Support work to grow and provide fresh produce for immigrants and refugee families with educational farm tours and a youth in an employment program in partnership with Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services through improved site drainage and a high-tunnel.
Four Seasons City Farm
931 E. Mound St., Columbus, OH 43205
www.facebook.com/FourSeasonsCityFarm/

2017 Grant Recipient
Improvement to two of their four sites on the Near East Side by making upgrades to an existing high tunnel and installing a new water line that allows produce to be grown year-round at a higher efficiency.

2019 Grant Recipient
Support growing more fresh produce year-round to distribute to local markets and residents of Columbus’ Near East Side and host a weekly 4H Club to engage children. Install a high-tunnel and acquire equipment to improve farm efficiencies.

Franklinton Farms
867 W. Town St. Suite A, Columbus, OH 43222
www.franklintonfarms.org

2017 Grant Recipient
Transformation of three, formerly vacant parcels into food production sites. Parcels were formerly overgrown with brush, litter, and the soil was filled with old car parts and trash.

Freshtown Farms
1880 Agler Rd., Columbus, OH 43224
1282 Ann St., Columbus, OH 43206
1808 E Lakeview Ave., Columbus, OH 43224
https://freshtownfarm.com

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to grow and provide fresh produce to south side residents via an on-site farm stand and donations to area food pantries by extending the production season with caterpillar tunnels, increasing production with an irrigation system, and fencing installation.

2019 Grant Recipient
Grow and provide fresh produce to both Linden and South Side residents via donations to area food pantries by acquiring tools and equipment to grow on multiple farm sites in Columbus.
Happy Toes Homestead
999 E. Cooke Rd., Columbus, OH 43224
www.happytoeshomestead.com

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to grow and provide fresh produce to SNAP customers at local farmers’ markets as well as low-income individuals, and to install an irrigation system.

2019 Grant Recipient
Grow and provide fresh produce to SNAP customers at local farmers’ markets and produce donations to low-income individuals with improved site drainage and fencing installation.

Harriet Gardens
42 W Jenkins Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43207
https://joshsmukal.com/harriet-gardens

2018 Grant Recipient
To provide fresh produce to SNAP customers at local farmers’ markets as well as an on-site farm stand, to expand tomato production, install a high-tunnel, and procure growing supplies.

Heaven Sent Children's Academy
5616 Gender Rd., Canal Winchester, OH, 43110
http://heavensentchildrensacademy.com

2019 Grant Recipient
Educate and provide produce to children and their families from the neighboring daycare center, host daily educational lessons with installation of a greenhouse, and acquire materials to add growing space in the garden.

Highland Youth Garden
65 S. Highland Ave., Columbus, OH 43223
www.highlandyouthgarden.org

2017 Grant Recipient
Installation of a high tunnel to grow produce year-round, upgraded irrigation system, and have year-round educational programming for children.

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to educate and provide fresh produce to children and youth from the Hilltop. Funds are invested to outfit a high tunnel to operate automatically, utilize vertical space for vegetable production, and support seed starting.
2019 Grant Recipient
Educate and provide fresh produce for children and youth in the Hilltop with a youth internship program and weekly field trips by outfitting a seedling propagation space.

Kimball Farms
1670 E Main St., Columbus, OH 43205
www.jjirehdevelopment.org

2017 Grant Recipient
Transformation of a formerly vacant residential parcel into an urban farm complete with high-tunnel and security fence.

Magic House Farms
82/84, 92, 106, 110 N. Yale Ave., Columbus, OH 43222
https://magichousefarms.org

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to beautify and grow produce on formerly vacant land while providing fresh produce to retail outlets and individuals in Franklinton, including the installation of an irrigation system.

2019 Grant Recipient
 Beautify and grow produce on formerly-vacant land while providing fresh produce to retail outlets and individuals in Franklinton with installation of a water line and fence.

Mother’s Peace Urban Farm
125 Westwood Rd., Columbus, OH 43214
http://motherspeacefarm.us

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to grow and provide fresh produce to homeless families and refugees while teaching individuals how to prepare healthy meals in addition to procuring a high-tunnel and growing supplies.

New Salem Community Garden
1880 Agler Rd., Columbus, OH 43224
www.church.newsalemcares.com

2017 Grant Recipient
Enhancement to water access and installation of an automated irrigation system at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church so the garden can provide fresh produce and space for education.
Over the Fence Urban Farm
143 E Dominion Blvd., Columbus, OH 43214
https://overthefenceurbanfarm.com

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to grow and provide fresh produce to low-income families and engage farmers’ market vendors to collect “seconds” and make improvements to existing high-tunnels.

Peace, Love & Freedom Farm, LLC
4541 N. 4th St., Columbus, OH 43224

2019 Grant Recipient
Improve efficiencies to grow more high-quality produce for local farmers’ markets, a CSA program, and for low-income seniors with a range of tools and equipment and a high-tunnel.

Reynoldsburg City School District
6699 E Livingston Ave., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
www.reyn.org

2019 Grant Recipient
Support the high school expansion of its educational garden and enhance the greenhouse at the Livingston Avenue campus with raised beds, rainwater catchment and an irrigation system, tool storage, and farm stand. The garden will be integrated into the Health Sciences and Human Services STEM Academy classes and activities.

Second Baptist Community Garden
186 N 17th St., Columbus, OH 43203
www.secondbaptistcolumbus.com

2017 Grant Recipient
Transformation of an empty parcel at the Second Baptist Church of Columbus into a garden by plowing the land, adding top soil, building raised beds, laying irrigation, and installing a fence.

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to grow and provide fresh produce to Near East Side residents through an on-site food pantry and community events as well as enhancing an irrigation system, protecting the garden from animals, and acquiring supplies.
Seasoning the Northside Melting Pot
1224 E Cooke Rd Columbus OH 43224
www.foragedandsown.com

2017 Grant Recipient
In support of a collaborative of urban farmers to acquire a tractor and other equipment to realize labor-savings in growing fresh food.

South Side Community Action Network
1200-1202 & 1269-1271 Wilson Ave., Columbus OH 43206
747 E. Whittier St., Columbus, OH 43206
www.facebook.com/sscommunityactionnetwork

2018 Grant Recipient
Engage South Side residents to grow and provide fresh produce and to enhance production by installing electricity, water, an irrigation system, and an outdoor community pavilion.

2019 Grant Recipient
Support SSCAN’s work to engage the community to grow and provide south side residents fresh produce with a high-tunnel.

Stoddart Avenue Community Garden
451 Stoddart Ave., Columbus, OH 43205
http://stoddartgarden.blogspot.com

2018 Grant Recipient
Support efforts to provide plots for individuals to grow their own food and make donations to area food pantries and homeless shelters as well as enhancing production by installing water and an irrigation system.

Sunbury Urban Farm
2140 Sunbury Rd., Columbus, OH 43219
https://sunburyurbanfarm.wixsite.com/farm

2017 Grant Recipient
Creation of an educational vegetable garden for students at the experiential learning-focused Red Oak Community School. Enhancements include water and irrigation, a storage space, and combating invasive weeds. www.redoakcommunityschool.org

2018 Grant Recipient
Support work to educate day-camp students on growing food and healthy eating while also growing food for individuals and area food pantries through installation of a high-tunnel, utilities, a wash station for produce, and seed starting space.
**The Hardy Center**  
1754 E Lakeview Ave., Columbus, OH 43224  
www.thehardycenter.org

*2019 Grant Recipient*

Educate and provide fresh produce to children and youth from Linden and host a summer education program through a water line, expanded seed starting capacity, and perennial fruit bushes.

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**Threshold Community Service**  
4099 Karl Rd., Columbus, OH 43224  
https://christianassembly.com/outreach

*2019 Grant Recipient*

Provide plots for more than 100 refugees and immigrants to grow food and make donations to other area families through an expanded rainwater catchment system.

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**MAKING EVERY ACRE COUNT.**

**Wheatland: Mid-Ohio Farm on the Hilltop**  
Grant money has also assisted the Mid-Ohio Farm on the Hilltop, a working, urban farm located on Columbus’ West Side that also serves as a model for other organizations and as an educational resource for the community.

This Farm, through USDA grant money and partnership funding, will serve as a hub to a network of farms across our 20-county service area and scale agricultural-efficiency best practices across the state.

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The power of community as we embrace the future.

This formerly, vacant lot is transitioning into a smart “farm-of-the-future,” utilizing modern technology and urban growing techniques to maximize yield, workforce training, and economic development in the Hilltop neighborhood. The Farm will be open to the public to engage the community, donors, and customers through a summer learning program; community produce box give-away; and events planned throughout the build-out process.