

BOSTON GRANTS INITIATIVE COVER SHEET

DATE: January 15, 2008

NAME OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION: Brookwood Community Farm

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AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST: \$10,000 **TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:** \$30,000

TOTAL CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET (If different from Project Budget): \$120,000

TOTAL AMOUNT YOUR ORGANIZATION SPENT LAST YEAR: \$99,229

NUMBER OF STAFF, FULL AND/OR PART-TIME (if any): 1 full time, 2 seasonal, 4 summer youth interns

NUMBER OF KEY VOLUNTEERS: 12

HOW LONG HAS YOUR GROUP BEEN ACTIVE?

2 years. Brookwood Community Farm was Founded in 2006, we are starting our 3rd season
The Mattapan Food System Project and Mattapan Food & Fitness council began in 2006

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY (No more than 2 sentences):

The Mattapan Food Systems Project is a collaborative initiative to strengthen food security in the Mattapan neighborhood of Boston. This project links community development, youth leadership development, public health and local and sustainable agriculture to create a local food policy council to guide the effort and ensure broad community support and engagement

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS GRANT PROGRAM? Through several individuals involved in grantmaking.
We received a NEGEF grant in 2006 and are applying for a second year of funding for this project

CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY TO YOUR ORGANIZATION:

☒ Neighborhood/Community group (not a 501(c)(3) or incorporated group)

☒ Checking or Savings account in group's name YES

Fiscal Agent Organization _____

Federal EIN # _____

☒ Incorporated as a nonprofit in Massachusetts

☒ 501(c)(3) status with the IRS YES, 10/31/06

Federal EIN # 20-4234872

BOSTON GRANTS INITIATIVE APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mattapan Food System Project (MFSP) is collaborative initiative between Brookwood Community Farm and the Mattapan Community Development Corporation (CDC). Brookwood Community Farm is seeking support from NEGEF to fund this project for a second year. The MFSP initiative is a neighborhood organizing and public health strategy that instrumental in the creation of a neighborhood-based food system council connected to a local, organic community farm. The project serves Mattapan residents and has the following goals:

- provide an organized structure for local control and decision making about food resources in the Mattapan community;
- increase residents' access to and consumption of fresh, nutritious food;
- increase food security of low-income families;
- increase awareness of the benefits of eating healthy food as a way to prevent obesity and related health problems; and involve community members in all aspects of food production, distribution and programming with hands-on farming and marketing activities

While residents in many higher income communities enjoy access to organic vegetables and fruits through upscale supermarkets and restaurants, residents in a number of Boston neighborhoods have very few opportunities to buy fresh, wholesome, affordable food. As a result, many lower-income Boston residents suffer from poor nutrition and related health problems due to a diet of highly processed foods with high sugar and fat contents. In a startling recent report, the CDC now estimates that between 30-40% of children born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime; for Latina girls the figure is at 50%.

In 2007 The Mattapan Food System Project created a neighborhood-based food policy council, The Mattapan Food and Fitness Council, to design and implement strategies to involve the community in the planning, production and distribution of food grown at Brookwood Community Farm. The council worked with the project's collaborating organizations to devise food distribution strategies that increase access for low-income families, including a new farmers market for Mattapan residents.

The project also works with neighborhood schools and after-school programs and involves youth in all aspects of growing food at Brookwood Community Farm and selling it at the Mattapan Farmer's Market. In 2008 new distribution strategies will be explored and piloted, including farm-to-school and low-income CSA programs. Last year, Brookwood Community Farm connected with students at the Mildred Ave Middle School, in Mattapan, and this year, we hope to build on that relationship to involve more local youth in farming and increase their opportunities to enjoy fresh farm produce at school and at home. The Youth Internship Program established in 2007, will be expanded from 2 to 3 Mattapan teens, and improved with transportation and a crew supervisor.

Summary of year 1 (2007):

The Mattapan Food System Project just completed its first year. It was a little over 1 year ago that a small group started meeting at Brothers Restaurant in Mattapan to talk about pooling ideas and resources to launch a community effort to improve access to fresh food and fresh air in Mattapan. The group included Mark Smith and Judy Lieberman from Brookwood Community Farm, Spencer DeShields from the Mattapan CDC, John Cooke from the Boston Medical Center and Vivien Morris, a Mattapan resident and community Garden Coordinator, as well as a nutritionist at BMC. Those breakfasts led to our first community meeting last January, attended by approximately 50 neighborhood residents who decided to form the Mattapan Food and Fitness Council to work together to address health problems related to the lack of fresh food and physical activity available to urban community residents. The Mattapan Food and Fitness Council has continued to meet monthly, and has spearheaded a number of initiatives in the community. A core project for this group, in collaboration with Brookwood Community Farm, was the creation and operation of the Mattapan Farmers Market, which ran from July through September in 2007. The market was small, since it took shape in a very short period, with limited time for recruiting farmers, outreach efforts or education programs. But it generated a lot of interest, some committed shoppers and many fresh produce converts. The momentum and enthusiasm from this first season seems sufficient to move the group forward towards a bigger, and more successful farmer's market in 2008. We also were able to provide summer internships to 2 Mattapan teenagers, who worked at Brookwood Farm growing and harvesting vegetables, and at the Mattapan Farmer's Market selling them.

There are a number of challenges to our efforts at bringing fresh, local produce into Mattapan, and involving Mattapan residents in farming at Brookwood. Finding adequate resources to cover the farmer's costs (Brookwood Community farm and other farmers who might consider selling at the Mattapan farmer's market) while keeping prices affordable is a difficult balance to achieve. We are wrestling with this issue in an effort to achieve a vibrant, sustainable market that meets the needs of low-income, urban residents and small-scale farmers. It is not only a matter of funding or subsidies, but also of education and outreach, to introduce a new concept and build a broad base of supporters among the many ethnicities and cultures that inhabit Mattapan. Unlike many of the suburban and more upscale urban communities near Brookwood Farm, few residents are looking for organic, locally grown fruits and vegetables, few are familiar with the CSA model, and many think of the "Farmer's Market Warehouse" (a nearby large grocery store where you can buy items in bulk and get good deals) or Boston's Chelsea Market when they hear the term "Farmer's Market".

On the other hand, getting folks out to the farm is also difficult due to limited public transportation to take them the 5 miles south, down Blue Hill Ave, to Brookwood. When we were able to bring students from an after-school program at the Mildred Ave Middle School to the farm, one day during planting last spring, it was fantastic. The kids seemed to enjoy being able to run, get their hands in the dirt, climb a tree and help out in the field. Our two teen interns were great workers and great kids, but it was difficult driving them back and forth each day in the small farm pick-up and impossible to expand this program without better transportation. In 2008 the Mattapan Food System Project will continue to develop the Mattapan Farmer's Market and other produce distribution

strategies, however, we would like to focus NEGEF funds on the youth internship program in order to insure that we are able to continue to provide summer positions in sustainable agriculture to Mattapan teens.

Describe the neighborhood or community need(s) and/or challenges that this effort will address.

Mattapan, with a population in 2000 of 19,724 residents, is predominantly a community of color, with 82.9% Black residents and 7.3% Latino residents. Mattapan is the home of the largest Haitian community in Massachusetts, who make up 15% of the population. Twenty two percent of Mattapan residents have incomes below the poverty level. Like many lower income communities, residents suffer from a number of health-related problems, among them obesity. Data from the Boston Public Health Commission indicate that a large proportion of the adult population of Mattapan (66%) is either overweight (85thile≤BMI<95thile) or obese (BMI ≥ 95thile). During 2002-2003, according to data from the Mattapan Community Health Center, the cause specific mortality rate for diabetes in Mattapan was 45.8 deaths per 100,000, nearly twice the rate for Boston as a whole. Two contributing factors to increasing obesity levels and rates of diabetes are: increased consumption of overly processed sugars and fats, and the lack of access, especially among lower income communities, to affordable, fresh and wholesome food.

What is the level and nature of involvement of the community-at-large?

The goal of this collaboration is to encourage broad community participation in all aspects of the Mattapan Food System Project. The Mattapan Food & Fitness Council is a neighborhood group that meets monthly to address environmental issues affecting the community and to take action to affect positive change. This group spearheaded the Mattapan Farmer's Market last summer and formed sub-committees to develop strategies for improving community and environmental health in a number of areas. Members of the MFFC have also actively reached out to other groups they are connected to in order to expand community participation and broaden the focus of the council. Brookwood Community Farm is dedicated to involving Mattapan residents in all aspects of production, from crop selection, to cultivation and marketing. We plan to work with members of the MFFC this month on our 2008 seed order, and hope to hire a Mattapan resident as our Assistant Grower to oversee production of the produce we will sell in the community this summer. If we are able to secure funding to lease a van this summer, we will be more successful at involving youth, volunteers, school-groups and seniors down at the farm this summer.

If your project is successful, what changes will occur in your community and its environment?

The Mattapan Food System Project will have deep and long-lasting impacts on Mattapan and its residents:

- Individuals will have greater access to locally grown, affordable organic food and will increase their awareness of the importance of local sustainable agriculture in the life of the community as well as individual health and wellness;
- Low income Mattapan residents will have a voice to steer the direction of the project to ensure that it meets their needs and interests;
- Mattapan schools and after school programs will gain a site for hands-on learning about agriculture, nutrition, ecology and other interdisciplinary subjects (art, writing, culture, math, etc.) via informative signage, experiments or fieldwork;
- Students and other individuals from different communities and walks of life, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to cross paths, will broaden their understanding of other cultures and values through on-farm volunteer and service learning projects;
- Locally produced organic food benefits community health and the environment in many ways, including no synthetic chemicals applied to food and land, less toxics in the environment, and less energy used to transport food, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PROJECT BUDGET- Mattapan Food System Project

1) Itemize anticipated expenses and income for this Project Proposal. Also note in-kind services (donated materials and/or labor) you may receive for this proposal.

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Income</u>		<u>In-kind Services</u>
Farm Manager	8,000	MFSP Produce Sales	5,000	Meeting facilitation & space
Community Organizer	6,000	BCF Income	8,000	Volunteer labor
Seasonal Labor		NEGEF Grant	10,000	Outreach/community mapping
Asst. Grower	6,240	Other Grants	5,000	Community days at farm
20 hrs/wk@ \$12/hr for 26wks		Donations	2,000	Tools
3 Project Interns	5,760			
30hrs/wk@ 8/hr for 8wks				
Market supplies	500*			
signs, containers, scale, etc				
Lease Van	3,500			
4 mos @ \$850/mo				
Total:	\$30,000		\$30,000	

BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY FARM BOARD

Brookwood Community Farm is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), organization presently governed by a 8-member Board of Directors. In 2007 the board will be expanded to include wider community and professional representation. Current board members include:

Judy Lieberman, Farm Manager

Mark Smith, Campaign Director, FARM AID

Maritta Manning Cronin, Milton Farmer's Market Manager

Adán Colón-Carmona, Professor, Department of Biology, UMass Boston

Dana Ostberg, Youth Program Director, Bikes Not Bombs

Jeremy Dick, BNAN Horticulturist & Community Garden Manager

Simca Horwitz, Graduate student at Tufts School of Food & Nutrition

Sharon Riley, Director, Women's Lunch Place

Advisory Council

In addition to the board, Brookwood Community Farm is creating an Advisory Council, made up of individuals with relevant expertise and experience, to guide and support the organization to achieve its goals. This group will include organic farmers, local educators, health professionals, environmentalists, researchers and naturalists. Current members include:

Norman Smith, Director of the Trailside Museum, Blue Hills Reservation

David Green, Farm Manager at Norfolk Regional Agricultural High School

Laura Orlando, Adjunct Professor, Department of Environmental Health, BU School of Public Health

Charlie Lord, Executive Director, Urban Ecology Institute

Vivien Morris, MS, RD, MPH, LDN, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Boston University School of Medicine and Director of Community Initiatives, Nutrition and Fitness for Life Program, Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center

Judy Leher-Jacobs, Director of Friends of the Blue Hills

Rosetta Haynesworth, Re-Vision House Urban Farm, Dorchester

BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY FARM 2008 BUDGET
Proposed

EXPENSE	COST	INCOME	
Capitalization- Equipment			
45 HP Tractor/ w bucket 4WD, hydrostatic transmission	\$ 15,000.00	CSA 130 Shares @ \$350/share	\$ 45,500.00
		Farm Stand/ Farmer's Market	\$ 25,000.00
Plow- 2 bottom	\$ 500.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 70,500.00
Cultivator- buddingh basket	\$ 1,000.00	Grants and Donations	\$ 49,500.00
Manure-Compost Spreader	\$ 1,400.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 120,000.00
**Disk Harrow	\$ 1,000.00		
Planet Junior seeder	\$ 350.00		
Mower	\$ 1,000.00		
Hand Tools wheel hoe, pitch forks, shovels	\$ 1,000.00		
Miscellaneous Additional cultivation equipment	\$2,500.00		
Greenhouse/ Coldframes	\$ 5,000.00		
TOTAL Equipment	\$ 28,750.00		
Agricultural production expenses			
Fertilizer	\$ 1,500.00		
Seeds	\$ 3,000.00		
Bees & bee keeping equipment	\$ 1,000.00		
Remay	\$ 1,000.00		
Tomato Stakes	\$ 1,000.00		
Equipment Fuel & maintenance	\$ 3,000.00		
Water bill	\$ 1,200.00		
Misc supplies string, boxes, etc.	\$ 1,000.00		
Organic certification	\$ 500.00		
Greenhouse supplies	\$ 1,000.00		
Greenhouse heat	\$ 1,000.00		
TOTAL Ag production	\$ 15,200.00		
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries and related expenses			
Farm Manager	\$ 30,000.00		
Assistant Grower 6 months full time	\$ 12,840.00		
Education & Outreach Manager 20 hrs/week year round	\$ 14,000.00		
Interns- 3 \$240/wk x 8 weeks	\$ 5,760.00		
Workmans Comp. Insurance	\$ 1,450.00		
Payroll taxes	\$ 4,000.00		
Liability Ins	\$ 500.00		
Lease van	\$ 3,500.00		
Education Program Expenses	\$ 2,000.00		
Admin			
Office Supplies	\$ 500.00		
Phone/Computer, internet	\$ 1,000.00		
Misc	\$ 500.00		
TOTAL Operating	\$ 76,050.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 120,000.00		