

# GROW Lansing

## 2024 Community Gardening Grant

### Application Proposal

**Project Title:** Nurture & Thrive: Empowering Women Through Gardening

**Organization:** Women's Center of Greater Lansing

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**Submission Date:** April 25, 2024



Women's Center  
of Greater Lansing

## Nurture & Thrive

Empowering women through gardening

GROW Lansing 2024 Community Gardening Grant Application

## **Proposal Summary:**

The Women's Center of Greater Lansing is seeking funding through the GROW Lansing 2024 Community Gardening Grant to revamp and expand our existing garden into a thriving space for our project, Nurture & Thrive: Empowering Women Through Gardening.

This project aims to accommodate up to sixteen clients simultaneously, offering workshops on sustainable gardening practices and food cultivation skills while engaging neighboring households and empowering Lansing youth. Through community engagement, volunteer involvement, and a focus on sustainability, we envision a lasting impact that addresses food security issues, fosters self-sufficiency, and builds a resilient and connected community in Lansing.

## Project Overview:

The Women's Center of Greater Lansing is excited to present our proposal for the GROW Lansing 2024 Community Gardening Grant. Our project, "Nurture & Thrive: Empowering Women Through Gardening," aims to revamp and expand our existing garden located at the backlot of the Women's Center of Greater Lansing. By transforming this space into a flourishing gardening area, we seek to accommodate up to sixteen clients simultaneously, fostering a significant impact and outreach within the community.

## Project Description:

The project involves repurposing the existing grass lot into a robust garden space. This includes the installation of garden beds, an irrigation system, sourcing organic soil and seeds, creating footpaths, and providing necessary infrastructure such as benches and tables. We will also implement security features like fencing to safeguard the garden. Our plan includes conducting workshops, educational programs, and regular maintenance activities to ensure the garden's sustainability and impact.

## Objectives:

- **Capacity Building:** Expand the existing garden to accommodate up to sixteen clients simultaneously, increasing our capacity to empower women through gardening.
- **Education and Skill Development:** Conduct workshops and educational programs to teach sustainable gardening practices and food cultivation skills to clients and community members.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage at least five neighboring households directly through educational outreach programs, fostering a sense of community and shared knowledge.
- **Sustainability:** Establish a maintenance schedule and volunteer involvement plan to ensure the garden's sustainability and long-term impact.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Educate and engage Lansing youth in gardening activities, promoting healthy lifestyles, environmental awareness, and community involvement.

## Benefits and Sustainability:

This project will have a lasting impact by expanding our capacity to serve clients in need, teaching vital skills in sustainable gardening and food cultivation. The garden will be sustained through ongoing community engagement, volunteer involvement, and regular maintenance activities. We anticipate a thriving garden that continues to empower individuals and families with fresh produce and sustainable gardening practices one year from now.

## Community Engagement and Impact:

While primarily focused on empowering women, we are committed to engaging neighboring households through educational outreach programs. We aim to impact at least five households directly, fostering a sense of community and shared knowledge. Our partnerships with local urban farms, gardening organizations, schools, and youth organizations will enhance the project's impact and outreach.

## Evaluation and Success Metrics:

- **Client Participation:** Measure the number of clients actively engaged in gardening activities and workshops, aiming to reach at least 80% of our target capacity by the end of the project.
- **Community Impact:** Assess the number of neighboring households directly impacted by our outreach programs, with a goal of engaging at least five households in sustainable gardening practices.
- **Garden Productivity:** Evaluate the garden's productivity by tracking the amount of fresh produce harvested and distributed to clients and community members throughout the project duration.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Measure volunteer participation and hours contributed towards garden maintenance and educational activities, aiming to achieve a minimum of 500 volunteer hours by project completion.
- **Youth Participation:** Monitor the number of youth involved in gardening activities and workshops, with a focus on reaching a diverse range of age groups and fostering ongoing interest in gardening among youth participants.

## Budget Overview:

Our budget of \$2,942.10 includes costs for tools/equipment, materials/supplies, footpaths, watering/irrigation, soil amendments, a facilitator's hours, and other essential elements to ensure the project's success and sustainability.

## Budget Worksheet:

Description	Quotes are encouraged for items over \$250, please not any estimates received	Cost
Tools/Equipment (mowers, trimmers, tillers, etc.)		
Materials/Supplies (raised beds, hand tools, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trench Shovel (\$50)</li> <li>● Flat Shovel (\$65)</li> <li>● Buckets x 4 (\$16)</li> <li>● Hand tool kits x 4 (\$48)</li> <li>● Plant Stakes x 8 (\$40)</li> <li>● <b>Cinder blocks x 56 (\$110.88) x 4 beds: (\$443.52)</b></li> <li>● <b>[Source: <a href="https://rb.gy/6kfi8t">https://rb.gy/6kfi8t</a>]</b></li> <li>● Concrete mix to pour into blocks x 4 bags (\$19.92)</li> <li>● tarping for inside beds (\$85)</li> <li>● Hoops for pest and frost control (\$65)</li> <li>● Rebars for inside the concrete blocks (\$416)</li> </ul>	1248.44
Benches, tables, chairs, etc		
Footpath, walking trail	<b>Pea gravel for pathways. 4 tons (3.3yd) plus delivery</b> <b>[Source: <a href="https://rb.gy/6ovurg">https://rb.gy/6ovurg</a>]</b>	255.76
Watering/irrigation	New water hose	30
Infrastructure (shed, hoophouse, etc.)		
Soil amendments (Compost, mulch, top soil, etc.)	<b>180 cubic feet (6 yds) of Garden mix soil plus delivery</b> <b>[Source: <a href="https://rb.gy/nufoox">https://rb.gy/nufoox</a>]</b>	339.90
Seeds, plants, trees, etc		
Security features (fencing, cameras, etc.)		
Other	Facilitator 4 hours/week x 14 weeks @\$18/hr	1,008
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>2,942.10</b>

## **Conclusion:**

The Women's Center of Greater Lansing is dedicated to creating a lasting impact through our "Nurture & Thrive" project. With the support of the GROW Lansing 2024 Community Gardening Grant, we aim to empower women, address food security issues, engage youth, and build a resilient and sustainable community through gardening. We look forward to the opportunity to bring this vision to life and make a meaningful difference in Lansing. Thank you for considering our proposal.