



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Farming Detroit

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The Greening of Detroit

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**Detroit Black Community Food Security
Network**

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
Program Award No 2015-70017-24175



Project Audience

- Who are you aiming to help?
 - Where are they: Detroit, MI
 - Who are they: Detroit Residents.
 - Limited-resource beginning farmers that are also socially disadvantaged having multiple barriers to employment. Detroit is 85% African American. The city's poverty rates are among the highest in the U.S., with 39.3% of residents living below the federal poverty level and an unemployment rate almost double the national average.
 - Type of Farming Management: Urban Agriculture
 - Detroit has a rich history of Urban Agriculture which burgeoned with the great migration of southerners to the north. Currently, farmers in Detroit more apt to economic success within the first 5 years are those who move into the city with a lifetime's worth of access to resources, training and capital. This project seeks to address the disparity in the lack of these assets, creating an equal playing field for residents through adult farmer apprenticeship that targets native Detroiters. This includes a wide range of projects from in-ground, hoop house production, season extension, animal husbandry and aquaponics.
 - Stage of Farming- All stages – Focus is on cultivating start ups and first year farmers
 - Participants gain knowledge on market systems, business plan development, networking skills and have an opportunity to develop the 'next steps' required for successful farming



Partners/Collaborators

- Who are the key people on your team?
 - Tepfirah Rushdan, Greening of Detroit, Project Director
 - Malik Yakini, DBCFSN, Project Director
 - Romondo Woods, Greening of Detroit, Farm Manager



Key Approach(es)

- Workshops & Courses
- Hands-on Demonstrations
- Guest Presenters
- Demonstration Farm
- Apprenticeships
- Mentoring
- Technical Assistance
- Business Acumen Skill Building



Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

- 10-20 people (including at least 80% socially disadvantaged) start a farm
- 100 people start family gardens through The Greening's Build-a-Garden program through Apprentice support



What do you have to share?

- Detroit is unique in our vacant land situation, both in that there are swaths of land within a major city that could be farmed and in the difficulty residents have faced procuring this land
- Both project organizations have demonstrated a unique ability to relate to, and work within, communities of color



What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Strategies to long term program sustainability
- What others are doing around the nation to cultivate new farmers



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Keep in touch!

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<http://www.greeningofdetroit.com/>

<http://detroitblackfoodsecurity.org/>