

Eastern District Funding for Innovative Programs

Application Form

Project Title: Oconto Community Garden

Project Timeline: Spring—Fall 2005

Funding Requested: \$2,030.40

Project Lead/Grant Applicant: John Pinkart, Oconto County UW-Extension NEP Coordinator

Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable): Oconto County UW-Extension, Oconto Unified School District, Northeast Wisconsin Community Action Project, Inc. (NEWCAP)

Situation Statement: The Oconto Community Garden was established in 2001, on property adjacent to the newly built elementary school, using start up funds from a USDA Plant a Row for the Hungry grant secured by NEWCAP. Since then, additional mini-grants have helped sustain the project and have allowed us to purchase a small shed, picnic tables, a tiller, a sprinkler system, seeds and plants, and basic garden tools. Operating costs necessary to cover our most basic needs have averaged between six and seven hundred dollars annually, which is about equal to what remains in our account from the earlier grants. We are therefore seeking additional funding to enable us to expand and improve our efforts.

Proposal

Project description: The three-way partnership that established and oversees the Oconto Community Garden Project helps each partner to fulfill individual educational or outreach objectives. Additionally, volunteers, teachers, and students have taken pride in contributing to the community, and in adding aesthetic value to the school property. But most significantly, the project has played a significant role in addressing local food insecurity by averaging donations of better than 1,000 pounds of fresh produce annually to NEWCAP's food pantry, and to the local Commission on Aging meal site.

WNEP's involvement in the garden project fits comfortably into two of the program's major outcome statements. First, the *Systems and Environmental Change* Outcome states that "WNEP will work to build and enhance local systems or environments that enable and facilitate the availability of nutritious diets to food stamp households." Second, the *Food Security* Outcome states that "participants will use vegetables and/or fruits grown in community gardens to enhance family food security." Consistent with these statewide outcomes, the Marinette/Oconto County WNEP educational plan for 2005 refers to plans to utilize the community garden in its educational programming and as a resource to actively address local food insecurity. Finally, our experience with developing and maintaining this garden project has led to an opportunity for our WNEP project to become involved with the creation of a new project in Marinette County this coming spring.

Goals:

- Acquire funding for the community garden to assist with immediate needs;

- Add to the character, functionality, and the potential for experiential learning associated with the garden through the purchase of compost, mulch, and weather resistant composite lumber to construct frames for our raised beds.
- Expand the project's capacity to increase its total yield, thereby improving our ability to address local food insecurity.

Expected Outcomes: As a result of securing this additional funding, there will be improved access to locally grown nutritious foods for food stamp residents in the Oconto area; there will be increased opportunities for WNEP and the elementary school to teach about gardening, nutrition, and environmental stewardship; and there will be increased opportunities for new volunteers to participate in efforts to improve the garden for the overall enrichment of the community.

Evaluation Plan:

- We will measure extent to which the community garden increases food stamp participant's access to locally grown fruit and vegetables by comparing amounts donated to the local food pantry records in previous years.
- We will track the number of educational programs conducted in the community garden, including numbers of participants, as compared to previous years.
- We will track the number of volunteers assisting us in readying the garden, maintaining it during growing season, and helping with the harvest.

Source and amounts from other funds:

<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
USDA Plant-A-Row-for-the-Hungry Grant, 2001 (Start up money for garden, shed, implements, equipment)	\$5,000.00
Oconto County Parent Resource Center, 2002 (One-time Human Services Title IV-E dollars for purchase of underground sprinkler system).	\$896.75
Private donations/revenue generated at school family night events (Purchased apple trees and miscellaneous items), 2002-2004	\$180.00
Sam's/Wal-Mart Grant Award, 2004 (Used for miscellaneous garden costs during 2004)	\$1,000.00
Current balance, January 2005 (Designated to cover operating costs in 2005)	\$727.78

Signature:

Grant Applicant/Lead



**Oconto Community Garden
Budget Breakdown**

• Materials for framing 18 raised beds:	
○ Trex Composite Lumber	
▪ 582 Feet @ \$2.06/ft	\$1,200.00
○ 1 box 3 ½ inch galvanized lag screws	\$25.00
○ 2 bundles 1 1/2 ft. wooden stakes	\$90.00
• T- Post Puller	\$65.00
• 2 Rolls Cushioned Plant Ties, 30' roll @ 9.95 ea.	\$19.90
• Lumber to repair compost bin, berry trellis, and to construct vine crop trellises	\$50.00
• 10 Yards Cedar Mulch @ \$25/yard	\$250.00
• Composted Cow Manure	
○ 15 40 lb bags @ 2.10/bag	\$31.50
• 1 Sledgehammer, 1 pitchfork, 3 garden rakes	\$150.00
• Poulan WeedEater Gas Trimmer, model PE550	<u>\$149.00</u>
Total	\$2,030.40