



Eastern District Innovative Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Application Form

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of 11 point, retain form formatting, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu, and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **noon on Friday, April 18, 2008**.

Project must be completed by December 31, 2008, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

1. **Project Title: Little Green Thumbs**
2. **Funding Requested: \$ 4,170.00**
3. **Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County): John Pinkart – WNEP Coordinator
Oconto and Marinette Counties**
 - a) **Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable) Hope Kersten – Oconto County WIC
Program Dietician, Mary LeMere - Oconto County Public Health Nurse, Aimee
Clough – Oconto Area Non Profit Daycare, Angie Gross - Building Blocks Daycare**

4. **Signature:** 
Grant Applicant/Lead

5. **Project Description**

Building Blocks Too Daycare located in Oconto Falls and Oconto Area Non-Profit Daycare of Oconto have expressed interest in establishing community gardens on their daycare sites. Both of these daycares are licensed facilities that continually look for educational opportunities for their staff and the youth in their care. Overall, 23 daycare employees, 90 children ages 2 – 12 and several staff from Public Health and UW-Extension will be directly involved in the project. Nearly 70% of the children enrolled in the two daycares are below federal poverty level creating an opportunity for WNEP to provide educational outreach.

These gardens will give many of the children their first experience with hands on gardening. The on site gardens will provide opportunities to teach the children about the benefits of locally grown produce and will serve as an outdoor classroom for educational programming that will be offered by the project collaborators. The on-site gardens will serve many important purposes: teaching children the importance of environmental stewardship, linking participants to better food choices, showing that gardening can be an activity without waste, demonstrating that gardening can be a lifelong hobby in addition to being an economical source of healthy food. Staff hours dedicated to this project will be provided in kind. This project will also provide chances to introduce youth in our county to the many wonderful learning opportunities that UW-Extension provides in the community.

It is our hope that the garden will provide sources of nutrient dense foods for the daycares that can be easily incorporated into their meal plans. Considering the children will participate in growing the produce, the likelihood that they will try new foods will be increased. Any surplus of the garden will be donated by the children to local food pantries.

This will help them to develop a sense of civic spirit. Local citizens, many being young families themselves, will benefit from these donations. Additional excess produce will be sold at farmer's markets and used in bake sales to generate monies for future gardens. The children may also have the opportunity to use monies to take educational field trips to berry farms or apple orchards.

WNEP's involvement in the garden projects compliments two of the program's major outcome statements. First, the *Systems and Environmental Change* Outcome details 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."

Goals:

- Expose youth at the daycare to Extension 4-H, for example, by encouraging them to enter vegetables grown in the garden into the County Fair. Junior Master Gardener Projects will also be incorporated.
- Provide youth of economically challenged households with the opportunity to learn about the benefits of locally grown produce.
- Acquire sufficient funding to establish sustainable on site gardens at these local daycares.
- Promote UW-Extension programming in this outdoor classroom setting.
- Form new relationships with community partners (local greenhouses, food pantries master gardeners, daycare providers and families)

Expected Outcomes: As a result of securing this funding, there will be improved access to locally grown nutritious foods for economically challenged young families of Oconto County. There will be increased opportunities for project collaborators to teach about gardening, nutrition, civic responsibility and environmental stewardship. New relationships will be formed and strengthened among non-traditional community partners.

Project Timeline:

The gardens will be tilled and prepared during the month of May. The gardens will then be planted at the end of May if weather permits. To promote sustainability, fruit trees and perennial garden plants will also be planted. Harvesting will occur in August and September. Participants will then help with the closing of the garden and provide ideas for next year's gardening experience. Documentation of the project and a success story will be submitted during the month of December.

Evaluation Plan:

- We will track the number of educational programs offered in the daycare gardens, including numbers of participants.
- We will measure the children's understanding of the connection and roles humans play in affecting the environment through their comments.
- We will track the children's participation in trying new foods and the daycare providers' use of fresh produce in meal planning. Documentation will be provided.

6. Detailed budget breakdown (specifying the amount and purpose of funds requested from District Resource Management funds, and clarifying the source and amounts from other funds):

No previous grants or other sources of revenue have been used in this project.

**Little Green Thumbs
Budget Breakdown**

• Materials for gardens	\$300.00
○ Wire fencing, garden stakes	
• Top soil	\$400.00
○ 2 truck loads @ \$200.00 each	
• Mulch	\$200.00
• Fertilizer & pest control	\$100.00
• Garden tillers (2 Troy-Built tillers @\$300.00 each)	\$600.00
• Watering equipment	\$300.00
○ Sprinklers, hoses, nozzles, watering cans	
• Tree Removal at Oconto Area Non-Profit Daycare	\$400.00
• Garden tools	\$380.00
○ Shovels, rakes, spades, gloves, buckets, small hand tools	
• Wheel Barrows (2 wheel barrows @ \$75.00 each)	\$150.00
• Storage shed	\$350.00
• Tomato cages and trellises	\$150.00
• Seeds and plants	\$200.00
• Fruit trees (8 trees @ \$30.00 each)	\$240.00
• Compost Bins (4 bins @ \$30.00 each)	\$120.00
• Junior Master Gardener Curriculums	\$ 80.00
○ 2 Curriculums @ \$40.00 each	
• Assorted educational materials	\$200.00
Total	\$4,170.00

7. If you have received Resource Management funds for a similar/related project, in the past, include the following information:

- a) Briefly describe your past experiences with resource management grants – project focus, funding received, project collaborators
- b) How is this project proposal new or different?

In 2005 a grant was written and received funding for improving community garden projects. These projects involved Crossroads Garden in Marinette County and the Community Garden at Oconto Elementary School. These gardens have continued to grow in their respective communities. However, this grant request is not related to the 2005 funding. For this opportunity, new partnerships were formed involving the Women, Infant and Children Program, Public Health, UW-Extension and local licensed daycares.