



**FRUITFUL**  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

To: Commissioner Michelle Long-Spears  
District 2  
DeKalb County Government

From: Dr. Elizabeth Falconi  
Interim Executive Director  
Fruitful Community Foundation  
Elizabeth@fruitfulcommunity.org

July 8th, 2024

Dear Commissioner Long-Spears,

I am writing to submit a proposal for funding to create a climate-resilient community hub, built through regenerative landscaping that will link up the Central DeKalb Senior Center and the Toco Hills Library. Our goal with this project is to build intergenerational bridges between youth and seniors through the creation and maintenance of a beautiful, productive, urban landscape. We will provide on-site community engagement, input, and education sessions before, during, and after the installation to ensure that all stakeholders are empowered to care for and enjoy the landscape for generations to come.

***Fruitful Community Foundation Proposal  
to Build Climate-Resilient Hub for Youth and Seniors***

**Scope of Work:**

Our goal is to create intergenerational bridges between youth and seniors and build a climate resilient community hub that will provide the neighborhood with a beautiful, productive urban landscape to enjoy for generations. We will follow the plan outlined below:

- 1) Educational workshops for GreenHivers, Staff, Residents, Librarians

- a) What happened? Overview of landscapes installed, major issues with ongoing maintenance of spaces.
  - b) What will happen? Targeted education and community engagement to bring stakeholders up to speed on what is needed to maintain this productive urban landscape long term.
  - c) Input requested: Participants will provide feedback at each session on developing plans.
- 2) Workforce development for GreenHivers and Landscape crews focused on earth stewardship: Using Grower's toolkit, GreenHive will get experience working directly with landscape crew members to create an immersive, hands on learning opportunity for all participants
  - 3) Signage and QR Codes: explaining climate resilience hubs and linking to web-based content providing more in-depth environmental education linked to features of landscape
  - 4) Fall planting/Clean-up day: Preparation of all planting areas with soil amendments and additional mulching, tree and bush planting
  - 5) Winter learning session: seasonality in landscapes, ecological benefits and impacts of climate-resilient landscaping (insect habitat etc.)
  - 6) Early spring installations at Senior Center and Toco Hills library: planting of tender perennials, pollinator habitat, herbs, grasses, guided sessions on planting in groups that are very clear to maintenance crews, labeling
  - 7) Earth Day Interactive Celebratory Event: Community garden party, inviting other commissioners to celebrate an environmental win for Dekalb in creation of a new climate resilient hub, GreenHiver presentation
  - 8) Resource Guide: Laminated pages with plant images and descriptions for all seasons, overview of climate resilient hubs, edibles, habitat for pollinators, birds
  - 9) Bi-monthly garden checks in growing season: GreenHivers will visit gardens to do light weeding and check in to see what is blooming, fruiting, on site check-ins with landscapers, fruit and flower drop offs at Senior Center and Library

**Deliverables:**

Throughout the course of the program, our research team will provide

- 1) Educational workshops
- 2) Community Engagement Sessions
- 3) Resource Guide for workshops
- 4) Quarterly Impact Reports
- 5) Social Media Kit to spread word about project

**Budget:**

- Training & Continuing Education \$5000
- Programs & Staff \$5000
- Supplies & Materials \$6000

Total Funds Requested: \$16,000