

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 187-F

Project Title:

"GrowPreneur" Student-run Eco-agriculture Micro-business Empowering At-risk Urban Youth

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

F. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$868,375

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, 2010 - 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

GrowPreneur: A student-managed agriculture and aquaculture microbusiness, education and empowerment project for at-risk youth at City Inc.'s North & South Minneapolis alternative school, will include climate and environmental-based service learning.

Name: Fred Easter

Sponsoring Organization: The City Inc.

Address: 1315 12th Avenue N
Minneapolis MN 55411

Telephone Number: (612) 377-7559

Email: fred_easter@thecityinc.org

Fax: (612) 381-9156

Web Address: www.thecityinc.org

Location:

Region: Metro

County Name: Hennepin

City / Township: Minneapolis

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

I. PROJECT STATEMENT: Situation

The City Inc, operates 2 alternative high schools located in economically challenged urban environments. Abandonment of poor urban areas has resulted in limited access to healthy foods for people living in low-income neighborhoods. Residents of blighted neighborhoods in North and South Minneapolis are far more likely to have food-related problems such as obesity and diabetes as well as experience poorer health and lower quality of life. And they are more likely to have limited job skills. Research has begun to document how the “neighborhood food environment” affects the amount of fruits and vegetables people eat, hence their overall neighborhood health. We maintain that urban residents, as human resources, are vital natural resources that are also part of the urban ecology and environmental equation. Healthy people and communities are more apt to care about and become more active participants in natural and environmental resources preservation, protection and stewardship. GrowPreneur is the City Inc.’s CREATIVE way of engaging unconventional and the least likely citizens-- low income urban residents ---locally in global climate issues & environmental protection & stewardship.

Our Goals

- Hold The City Inc.’s North Minneapolis Campus school building out as an inner-city beacon for renewable energy & environmental stewardship in what other wise is a blighted urban neighborhood and expand educational, entrepreneurial, outdoor experiences and natural resource & agricultural opportunities for high-risk diverse youth and others whose access to outdoor experiences and fresh vegetables and job skill may be limited.
- Motivate high risk students to excel in school, become self sufficient, stimulate interest in higher education and environmental science careers, develop self-respect and the skills necessary to reduce socially inappropriate behavior and increase potential for success.
- To promote appreciation and life-long responsible use and stewardship of their own urban community ecosystem.

The City Inc. proposes to repurpose the North Minneapolis campus school grounds as an urban community oasis and Living Laboratory for teaching and research in support of school-wide and community environmental sustainability. We will work with students who have not traditionally sought careers in natural resources, ecology, agriculture or environmental science fields and whose access to outdoor and food growing experiences may be limited. The program will provide at-risk youth and teachers practical and real-world entrepreneurial skills and investigative experience using agriculture, vermicultrue, aquaculture & horticulture as a micro-business venture while also conducting experiments on growing plants.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Our focus is on designing an impactful and innovative environmental education experience and inner-city school site at the North Minneapolis campus where students from both campuses as well as neighboring public schools and community members can experience nature in a technologically and ecologically conscious, but practical and visible way. We also want at-risk high school youth to gain a sense of ownership, hence stewardship through paid agriculture/aquaculture internships.

Outcome 1. Green Buildings and Infrastructure (Start July 2010)

Maximize the energy efficiency at the school, incorporate renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures that incorporate durable materials that require less maintenance, and improve indoor air quality and overall learning atmosphere.

Budget: \$ 230,000

Deliverables Yr 1

1. Install passive solar and photovoltaics
2. Install roof-top wind turbine
3. Substitute light fixtures
4. Upgrade to high performance insulation where appropriate
5. Install energy efficient insulated windows and doors

Completion Date:

July 2010 thru October 2010

October 2010

July 2010 thru Aug 2010

June 2011 thru Aug 2011

July 2011 thru Aug 2011

Outcome 2 Environmental Education and Community Outreach (Start July 2010: Yr 1 through Yr 3)

Provide EE for up to 30,000 metro area K-12 Students per year for 3 years;

Budget: \$ 345,125

Deliverable

1. Hire staff, consultants, Develop strategies for disseminating information to the community about educational, environmental and economic significance/value of the model project
2. Design outdoor classroom

Completion Date

July 2010 -- Jan 2011

July 2010 -- Dec, 2010

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 3. Develop relevant and culturally competent environmental education, health, nutrition instructional and materials and curricular activities involving wide variety of field experiences in the practice of agriculture, ecology, nutrition and health promotion for students | July 2010 --Jan 2011 |
| 4. Conduct/implement curricula in School year and summer programs | Jan 2011 -- June 2013 |
| 5. Maintain & distribute organic food and environmentally related resource information, instructional materials, & teaching techniques for students, teachers & community members in low income neighborhoods | Jan 2011 -- June 2013 |
| 6. Identify @ enlist local government agencies to conduct FREE workshops on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as well as other environmental monitoring activities as a tools in environmental quality priority setting and community analysis | Jan 2011 -- July 2012 |
| 7. Develop then implement/conduct after-school program for teens and community youth | Jan 2011 -- June 2013 |

Outcome 3 Youth Internship program: Enterprise Education & Job Skills training (start Jan 2011)

Provide opportunities for Teens 14-19 to learn environmental science in informal setting; receive job training and have meaningful work experiences working in the greenhouse through Paid Internships and Teaching younger youth .

Budget: \$291,000

Deliverable

Completion Date:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Conduct annual work skills training, Conduct entrepreneurial training starting | Sept 2010 - Jan 2011 |
| 2. Students Grow Talapia Fish, research feeding & care, Cultivate earthworm operations, research vermiculture/ vermicomposting | Jan 2011 –July 2013 |
| 3. Indigenous Youth initiate land-related micro-enterprise and materials and curricular activities involving wide variety of field experiences in the practice of agriculture, ecology, nutrition and health promotion for students | March 2011 --July 2013 |
| 4. Students Develop symbiotic non-soil plant growing system (aquaponics) | Jan 2011 --July 2013 |
| 5. Students cultivate shitaki mushrooms and Year-round food plants | Jan 2011 -- July 2013 |
| 6. Donate to food shelf, sell to community resident, proceeds go to charity or scholarship fund | Jan 2001-July 2013 |

Outcome 4 Service Learning Mini-grants (annual)

Green schools are healthy and productive learning environments. Therefore focus service learning on Peer-led and cross-age education & training; waste minimization, water & energy conservation, and indoor air quality..

Budget: \$2,250

Deliverable

Completion Date:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Establish an "EcoCity Works" school team annually | Sept 2010 thru June 2013 |
| 2. Conduct annual Service Learning Training for teachers and students | Nov 2010, 2011, 2012 |
| 3. Initiate student-led metal, glass recycling, paper reduction & recycling | Dec 2010 |
| 4. Conduct bi-annual water and energy audits November and May of each school year | |
| 5. MLK day & Earth week Annual Community outreach projects on nutrition, cross-age teaching & mentoring, service projects | Jan & April 2011-2013 |

3 Year Total Budget:\$868,375

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The City Inc will partner with Women Venture to provide some of our Work skills training; Summit Academy OIC Youth Works for green construction training of youth, GWCUSA for curricula and Oshibug Native American youth programs. We will build additional relationships over the course of the project.

B. Timeline Requirements 3 years

C. Long-Term Strategy

We believe that this project will require no further investment for material resources beyond this initial investment. Financial resources that we save in the long run from energy savings can be used to maintain staff to continue the education program. We hope to be able to raise additional funds for student stipends as well as generate some level of revenue from sale of plants and organically grown food crops and talapia fish.

Project Budget: The City Inc.

"GrowPreneur" Student-run Eco-agriculture Micro-business Empowering At-risk InnercityYouth

V. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (3years)	
BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	AMOUNT
Personnel	
15% Project Manager Fred Easter, X\$90,000/yrX 3 years	40,500
1 FT Aquaponics/Aquaculture Specialist and Greenhouse Manager: \$42,000/yr X 3 yr-- (126,000) + 26% benefits (31,500) Manage and oversee activities in Greenhouse, coordinate research projects; coordinate elementary & secondary class visits	157,500
1FT Environmental Science Instructor: \$40,000/yr X 3 years	120,000
50% PT Horticulture & Agronomy Specialist/Plant Scientist: @50% of \$40,000/yr X 3 years	60,000
Contracts:	
5 High School Student Paid Interns per year: Aquaculture, Agriculture, Horticulture @ \$2,500/yr each X 3 years	37,500
Renewable Energy Upgrade: Solar Panels and passive solar heating system, roof-top Wind Turbine, Greenhouse construction, Landscape Design (bid out)	200,000
FT Curriculum & Education Directo/Project director @ \$57,000/yr X 3 years	171,000
Construction Contract: Energy efficient upgrade to insulation, windows, lighting	30,000
Consultant: Work skills training, entrepreneurial training @ \$35/hr X 75 hrs/3yr	2,625
Consultant: Green jobs/green construction training for students X \$50/hrs X 300hrs/3yrs	15,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Outdoor Classroom Equipment (gazebo, tables, weather station, bird feeders, etc)	5,000
Environmental Science Materials, Equipment, Supplies(water air, soil, quality monitoring, GIS hardware & software	10,000
Gardening equipment & tools	2,000
Greenhouse supplies, aquaponics, horticulture, hydroponic, vermiculture supplies	15,000
Additional Budget Items: /	
Mini-Grants for Community Service Learning Projects per year at \$250/team X 3 teams/year X 3 years	2,250
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	
	868,375
V. OTHER FUNDS	
SOURCE OF FUNDS	
In-kind Services During Project Period:	
Transportation for students in South Minneapolis	
School to North MPLS	

Organization History

For over 40 years, The City, Inc. has provided a variety of integrated, culturally sensitive services and programs to thousands of people living in some of the most poverty-stricken Twin Cities neighborhoods: Powderhorn, Phillips, Jordan, Cleveland, Webber-Camden and Hawthorne. To successfully help children and families realize their full potential, and ensure long-term change, our programs focus on the “whole” person taking into consideration physical, emotional, social, environmental and spiritual factors.

The *City School* is an alternative senior high school with two campuses in North and South Minneapolis. Our program provides at-risk, inner city youth with a viable alternative to the traditional school system. The City, Inc. mission is to be an agent of healing, growth and advocacy for inner-city youth and

Project Management Qualifications

Fred Easter-President/CEO

Fred Easter joined The City, Inc. in 2001. He brings over 40 years of experience in secondary and postsecondary teaching, counseling and program management. He is also an active Board member of the Metropolitan Alliance of Connected Communities, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Resource, Inc., The Metropolitan Federation of Alternative Schools. Fred is currently the Chair of the Council of Agency Executives of the Greater Twin Cities United Way, and in this capacity sits on the United Way Board.

Easter’s educational background includes an AB History degree from Harvard University and graduate work at the University of Minnesota. He was also a Ford Foundation Fellow.

Colnese Hendon, Program and Development Director

Colnese Hendon has worked in the nonprofit sector for the past 19 years. During that time she has held various communications/development positions for organizations including Sabathani Community Center, Wayside House, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, the Urban Coalition, Pillsbury United Communities, and The City, Inc. where she is currently employed as Development Director.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Professional Communications/Public Relations in 1995 and a Masters of Arts degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration (MPNA) from Metropolitan State University in 2008. In addition, she has a Certificate in Fundraising Management from Indiana University’s Center on Philanthropy and a Certificate in Community Leadership from the University of St. Thomas’s Center for Nonprofit Management. Creative writing is her avocation.

Mike Loud-Program Director

Mike Loud, an Anishinabe elder of the Red Lake Band, has been with The City, Inc. for 25 years. He manages three programs, including Oshkibug, Pride in the City, and Youth Intervention. The Oshkibug program is a counseling and prevention program that relies on traditional Native American practices to help urban Indian youth avoid a negative lifestyle, including chemical abuse and violence. Pride in the City is a Youth Build program, which teaches inner-city students carpentry and construction trades. The Youth Intervention program assists youth and families who are experiencing personal, familial, school, legal and/or substance abuse problems. Mike was the recipient of the 2007 Minnesota’s Youth Intervention Program’s Associations’ “Friends of Leadership” Award.

