



Museums for America

Sample Application MA-20-16-0412-16
Project Category: Community Anchors
Funding Level: \$25,001-\$150,000

Chicago Botanic Garden

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$150,000
Amount of cost share:	\$155,370

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

Please note that the instructions for preparing narratives for FY2017 applications differ from those that guided the preparation of previous applications. Be sure to use the narrative instructions in the FY2017 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program and project category to which you are applying.

ABSTRACT

The Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) requests a \$150,000 grant to implement the “Food as Medicine” project through the Windy City Harvest (WCH) program, a continuum of sustainable urban agriculture initiatives serving youth, adults, and families. To deliver this project, CBG will partner with two community health clinics—Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) and PCC Community Wellness Center (PCC)—as well as the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program and the Safer Foundation, an ex-offender re-entry service provider.

The Food as Medicine project addresses multiple community needs. In the Chicago neighborhoods where the program will operate, residents endure poverty, high unemployment and incarceration rates, violence, and low economic investment. In addition, these food-insecure communities lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables, leading to high incidences of diet-related illnesses, such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. Their physicians are often not adequately trained to support patients in making diet-related changes. CBG’s awareness of these issues came about organically as WCH began delivering programs in 2003. While food and health are a natural link, the need for explicit action related to wellness became apparent when WCH Youth Farm teens grew fresh vegetables during their summer internship on an urban farm, but brought junk food for lunch. The health connection evolved when a succession of community organizations approached WCH, for example, to host a farm stand at a hospital. The most significant developments occurred when PCC asked WCH to install and operate a farm near their clinic, which was up and running in 2015; in 2016, WCH will partner with LCHC to build a “Farm-acy” and food hub in North Lawndale. These collaborations make CBG’s work relevant to new constituencies, address health issues in the community, and model how a botanic garden can contribute thriving local food systems.

In this two-year project beginning October 2016, WCH will make fresh, affordable produce available to low-income residents through the launch of a produce prescription program in collaboration with the two partner health clinics, and by educating LCHC and PCC physicians about the importance of nutrition and how to refer patients to the program. WCH will also sell produce at below-market rates at community markets and the Farm-acy healthy corner store, incentivizing prescription patients to return with vouchers. The project will educate LCHC/PCC patients and WIC recipients about nutrition through classes and food demonstrations. Finally, through the Farm-acy, staff will expand training programs in urban agriculture (WCH Youth Farm and WCH Corps transitional jobs) to serve additional at-risk youth and ex-offenders, preparing these community members for gainful employment. The power of the nutrition education will be doubled as WCH trainees—representatives of their communities—will be empowered to help deliver food demonstrations, making the messaging more relatable.

The Food as Medicine project will benefit more than 100,000 low-income people over two years. Geographic areas range across the greater Chicago area with a particular focus on the West Side neighborhoods of North Lawndale and Austin. Beneficiaries will include low-income people, including LCHC and PCC patients (most uninsured or on Medicaid), WIC recipients, and at-risk youth and ex-offenders. The project will also benefit PCC and LCHC physicians. CBG is also a beneficiary, since it will further embed itself in the community, making the institution more relevant to constituencies located 30 miles from its campus. The larger museum community will benefit from this model example of how a botanic garden can engage communities in issues of health and wellness.

CBG staff members will use a variety of tools to evaluate the impact of the Food as Medicine project in relation to the intended results and measurements. Progress will be determined by the related measures of success: 100,000 low-income individuals gain access to healthy food (100% of produce sales/donations are in low-income communities, 60% of sales are through federal nutrition benefits); 2,100 low-income individuals participate in nutrition education (100% learn at least one produce recipe, 50% demonstrate increased awareness of nutrition, 90% pledge to eat better, 75% of distributed vouchers for additional produce are redeemed); 50 physicians participate in nutrition education (75% of physician-participants report increased awareness about discussing nutrition with patients, 75% refer patients to produce prescription program); and 260 people are trained in sustainable urban agriculture (100% of participants practice urban agriculture skills, 75% of Corps participants obtain jobs, 75% of Youth Farm participants report increased confidence in practicing urban agriculture skills, 90% of Youth Farm and Corps members deliver nutrition demonstrations). Staff will also determine the museum’s perceived impact/abilities through the IMLS-suggested survey questions.

Statement of Need

“Let food be thy medicine.” –Hippocrates

“I don’t eat the way I used to, and I tell my mom we need to cook more vegetables.” –Windy City Harvest Youth Farm participant

Proposed Project - The Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) requests a \$150,000 grant to implement the “Food as Medicine” project through the Windy City Harvest (WCH) program, a continuum of sustainable urban agriculture initiatives serving youth, adults, and families. CBG will build on new and existing projects to deliver year-round training programs to teens and ex-offenders. Participants will obtain nutrition education and in turn share this information with patients of two neighborhood health clinics—Lawndale Christian Health Center and PCC Wellness—and Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) federal nutrition beneficiaries. In addition, CBG will launch a prescription produce box program for patients and nutrition education for physicians through the two community clinics. The Food as Medicine project will demonstrate how museums can respond to critical needs of low-income communities by contributing to their physical health and economic vitality while creating equitable food systems.

Need and Community Benefit

Urban agriculture’s promise lies in its ability to address multiple community needs. The Food as Medicine project will impact communities, such as Chicago’s Austin and North Lawndale neighborhoods on the West Side that face many challenges. In North Lawndale, 45% of households and more than half of children live below the poverty level. The current unemployment rate is triple the city average and is even higher for those with a criminal background—a common issue here, as incarceration rates run 25% higher than the national average. Stressed living conditions, including exposure to violence, induce post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at rates comparable to military veterans. In a 2011 study, 40% of patients at Chicago’s Cook County Hospital showed symptoms of PTSD. These many factors lead to a self-reinforcing cycle that can keep communities trapped in a depressed economy.

The economic disadvantage and lack of community investment result in a dearth of grocery stores and rates of food insecurity in these neighborhoods that double or even triple the national average. Food insecure families experience reduced quality, variety, or desirability of food choices and endure disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake. These conditions carry near certain health risks for residents. Seventeen percent of babies in North Lawndale are born at very low weight. Conversely rates of childhood obesity are three-times the state-wide average at 46%. Similarly adults in these communities are at higher risk of developing various diet-related diseases; for example, 41% have high blood pressure, 29% have diabetes (with a 64% higher mortality rate than diabetics in the rest of the country), and 41% are obese.

Doctors treat the symptoms of these illnesses but lack the knowledge to advise about a healthy diet. A 2013 University of Maryland study found that behavior and environment, which includes diet, account for 70% of one’s health. The World Health Organization states that maintaining a healthy diet can contribute to managing several illnesses, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, multiple forms of cancer, osteoporosis, and dental disease. However a 2010 report in the Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges states that only 25% of medical universities require students to take a nutrition course. This rate had fallen since 2004, indicating that nutrition is less of a priority even as mounting evidence indicates that chronic illnesses are related to and exacerbated by poor diet. In food desert neighborhoods like North Lawndale, this issue is compounded due to the lack of healthy food options.

CBG became aware of the needs of the community, in particular as it relates to Food as Medicine, through partnerships that formed organically out of the community as the program grew. CBG began its continuum of urban agriculture training program, Windy City Harvest, in 2003 to address the needs of at-risk teens. Today WCH is a nationally recognized program that offers leadership education for youth, certificates in sustainable urban agriculture for adults, transitional jobs training and employment placement for justice-involved youth and adults, and the distribution of fresh produce in low-income neighborhoods.

WCH’s first forays into health came in the form of nutrition education offered to youth participants in response to the fact that, although students were growing healthy produce, they were still consuming chips and soda during

breaks. These youth participants began offering food demonstrations for WIC clients to accompany produce box distribution—leading to increased success and the highest rate of WIC coupon redemption in the state in 2014. Sinai Hospital and Lawndale Christian Health Center approached the program about having a farm stand on their sites. Similarly PCC Community Wellness Center requested assistance from CBG when applying for a grant to build a farm; the proposal and subsequent MOU included a contract with WCH to install and manage the PCC Austin Farm. An *Austin Weekly News* article reports resident Velda Brunner describing the community developed by this farm and her now frequent conversations with her neighbors about food, like seven layer salad recipes or tomato varieties. “The farm has really done wonders to this neighborhood,” said Brunner. The American Diabetes Association approached CBG about collaborating, and the resulting Aetna grant will fund nutrition and health education on diet-related illnesses for WCH youth participants and their families in 2016-17. The link between food and health and the need for increased services in this area became more apparent as each new partnership developed and WCH became more embedded in each community.

Most recently, the Lawndale Christian Health Center contacted WCH to develop a Farm-acy, a year-round facility for training and food aggregation and distribution that will include a commercial-scale aquaponics system, kitchen, cold storage, and healthy corner store. The Farm-acy complements the Health Center’s belief in holistic health, as confirmed by the affordable fitness center and healthy Green Tomato Café in their clinic. Currently under construction, the Farm-acy will offer access to fresh produce and nutrition education year-round in a Chicago food desert, while providing new workforce development opportunities for underserved and justice-involved youth and adults. Equally important, the Farm-acy will provide WCH with a visible base in the community to add to two already established community gardens.

To build on these successes and continue the organic growth that responds to community needs, CBG will expand and formalize partnerships with community-based health care clinics that recognize the social determinants of health and approach health care holistically. Urban agriculture is playing an increasing role in reducing food inequalities for residents living in low-income, food-insecure communities and at the same time presents a viable career option for individuals with barriers to employment. CBG will expand its role in supporting the education, workforce training, transferable job skills, and employment opportunities associated with building a healthy community-based food system. Through the Food as Medicine project, Chicago communities will gain increased access to healthy foods and improve their knowledge in how to use the produce to follow a healthy diet. Youth and ex-offenders will earn gainful employment that prepares them for future jobs while contributing to their communities. Finally, doctors at community clinics will increase their awareness of healthy food access and nutrition education options, as well as their confidence and ability to discuss nutrition with their patients.

Strategic Plan Benefit - CBG’s vision for its education programs, including WCH, is detailed in its ten-year Keep Growing strategic plan: “the Garden will use the power of plants and nature to teach and enrich people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, at the Garden and in the diverse communities where they live.” WCH takes this vision into underserved communities with the goal to “model how a botanic garden can make vital, year-round contributions to sustainable, plant-based local food systems and career training in horticulture...through adult education, youth leadership programs, and innovative vegetable-production programs that build urban resilience, strengthen underserved communities, and increase access to good nutrition and fresh produce.” These goals are reinforced in CBG’s 2015 commitment, as endorsed by the Clinton Global Initiative, to “Resilient Communities: Jobs, Food, and Health” (www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/commitments/resilient-communities-jobs-food-and-health).

Addressing Community Anchors Goals

The Food as Medicine project addresses the IMLS goal of “promoting museums as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunities, and economic vitality.” By working closely with partners that are embedded in the community and have a long history in these neighborhoods and by establishing a highly visible garden facility in the heart of North Lawndale (and in other neighborhoods through community gardens and increased programming), WCH will make the institution’s work relevant to difficult-to-reach constituencies and help generate economic growth for individuals and communities.

Botanic gardens, like many museums, can be reduced in people’s mind to simple repositories of specimens—as singular places to experience plants and nature—even though many have vast outreach initiatives. As a result, the cultural institution can be considered remote, irrelevant, and accessible only to those who can afford to visit. The Food as Medicine project will position CBG as a community anchor by bringing its mission and resources to low-income communities in a manner that addresses their immediate needs for access to fresh food, workforce training and employment, and community revitalization. Through satellite locations like the Farm-acy, the project places the institution at the heart of these communities, making CBG more visible and accessible to individuals with low mobility or those who do not travel far outside their neighborhoods.

The Food as Medicine project creates opportunities for employment and economic vitality in a community that is 30 miles from CBG’s main campus. While many botanic gardens struggle with attracting diverse audiences as employees, this project offers individuals typically underrepresented in botanic garden staff—people of color and non-violent ex-offenders—with an inroad to the museum’s workforce. Through a continuum of training opportunities, the project provides an accessible pathway for low-income individuals to overcome barriers to employment and assume positions of increasing responsibility—becoming full participants in their local communities through gainful employment. In turn, the museum gains a more diverse workforce, which benefits all. Ultimately the Food as Medicine project will provide a model for how a museum can engage individuals, improving outcomes for the museum and the economically depressed communities where these individuals live.

2. Impact

Performance Measures and Reporting

CBG will collect information in response to the first four questions below for seven program staff involved in the Food as Medicine project. The last two questions will be posed to leadership at partner organizations (Lawndale Christian Health Center, PCC Community Wellness Center, and WIC) and to program participants, for example, produce prescription recipients, nutrition education participants, and Youth Farm/Corps trainees. CBG will use a survey scale from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” on the following goal and measurement statements.

Strengthen museums and libraries as essential partners in addressing the needs of their communities.

1. My organization is better prepared to provide a program or service that addresses community needs.
2. My organization is better able to engage my community.
3. My organization is better prepared to develop and maintain on-going relationships with community partners.
4. My organization is better prepared to share knowledge and other resources as an active contributor to problem solving in the community.
5. The museum or library offers programs, services, or resources that address community needs.
6. The museum or library is an active contributor to problem solving in the community.

Intended Results and Audience Changes

This project intends to increase participants’ knowledge of diet-related illnesses, consumption of healthy foods, and access to good jobs. As a result of this two-year project:

- 100,000 low-income individuals will gain access to healthy food, including through a prescription produce box program, WIC distribution, subsidized community market sales, donations, and the healthy corner store
 - Measure: 100% of these sales/donations take place in low-income communities, 60% of sales are obtained with federal nutrition benefits
- 2,100 low-income individuals will participate in nutrition education
 - Measure: 100% learn at least one new recipe using fresh produce; 50% can demonstrate increased awareness of nutrition and healthy food preparation, 90% pledge to eat better, 75% of distributed vouchers for additional produce at community market stands are redeemed
- 50 doctors will participate in nutrition education
 - Measure: 75% of physician-participants report increased awareness about discussing nutrition with patients, 75% of participants refer patients to produce prescription program
- 260 individuals will be trained in sustainable urban agriculture and food systems
 - Measure: 100% of participants practice sustainable urban agriculture skills, 75% of Corps participants obtain jobs, 75% of Youth Farm participants report increased confidence in practicing

urban agriculture skills, 90% of Youth Farm and Corps members deliver nutrition demonstrations in the community

Tangible Products - The tangible results of this project include 140,000 pounds of organically grown produce. Staff will develop new curricula for doctor nutrition education and community nutrition education, including a script for food demonstrations led by Corps/Youth Farm participants. In addition, while less tangible, the project will result in 200 trained youth, 60 trained ex-offenders, and 2,100 individuals with improved diets. Finally the project director will develop a presentation to share the results of this project for a national conference.

Sustainability - The innovative partnerships proposed in this project sit at the very heart of WCH's sustainability. The program carefully cultivates relationships that increase WCH's capacity and impact and help to sustain the program in diverse communities. The partnership with Lawndale Christian Health Center is long-term; a ten-year agreement is in the drafted MOU. The WIC partnership is extremely successful, and given continued federal funding to that program, this initiative will endure. PCC Wellness included WCH in its farm's very inception, demonstrating the strength and stability of that partnership. Once curricula are established, the doctor and patient classes can be integrated into the program permanently, with the only significant cost being staff time. Produce distributed at reduced prices or for free is counterbalanced by WCH's ability to generate significant earned revenue from WIC and farmer's market produce sales and tuition from other parts of the program. In addition, CBG has a good track record of securing private and public funds to sustain the larger WCH program since its inception in 2003.

3. Project Design

The Food as Medicine project will build upon WCH partnerships with WIC and two Chicago healthcare institutions—the Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) and PCC Community Wellness Center (PCC). The project will engage two programs in WCH's continuum of sustainable agriculture training: Youth Farm, a development and paid work opportunity for low-income teens at small urban farms, and Corps, a transitional jobs program for non-violent justice-involved youth and adults. WCH's "EAT Plants" vision encompasses 1) **E**ducation about the impact a plant-based diet has on health, the economy, and the environment; 2) **A**ccess to locally and sustainably grown fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income and food insecure community members; and 3) **T**raining for a diverse workforce to prepare individuals for a variety of career opportunities.

Education. The project will implement a multi-faceted approach to educating residents of food insecure communities about the importance of a plant-based diet for health and wellness. Physician training is a critical component; WCH, LCHC, and PCC staff will plan, pilot, and offer periodic workshops for doctors and other health professionals. Physician training sessions will be offered to teach best practices for communicating with patients about nutrition and dietary changes, how to connect patients to local fresh produce, and educate doctors about the new produce prescription program. WCH staff will seek medical staff input and, based on feedback, will develop an appropriate training format, curriculum, and schedule. In addition to "prescribing" fresh produce, physicians will play a central role in referring patients with diet-related diseases to WCH nutrition education.

WCH will develop and pilot new health, nutrition education, and cooking classes to be offered at the Farm-acy and PCC Austin Farm. Listening closely to community feedback, staff will develop program length, timing, and content. All programs will be interactive and, whenever feasible, Youth Farm and Corps participants will assist with program implementation. In addition, Youth Farm teens, who learn about health, nutrition, and the importance of a plant-based diet as part of their summer curriculum, will deliver nutrition discussions and food preparation demonstrations at WIC centers. Working in teams, the students will lead and engage an average of 20 participants per session—both children and adults—in discussions on the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables as well as strategies and recipes to integrate these foods into their diets. Using WIC coupons, WIC clients will be able to purchase produce bags, which will include simple, relevant recipes.

Access. WCH will increase access to fresh produce among low-income populations who are disproportionately at risk for diet-related diseases. LCHC and PCC physicians will write "prescriptions" for redemption of free produce at the Farm-acy and the PCC Austin Farm, encouraging patients to act on recommended diet-related changes with multiple "doses." In the boxes, WCH staff will include information on the weekly community markets and Farm-

acy healthy corner store along with a \$15 coupon for fresh produce to encourage patients to return and become repeat customers. WCH-grown fresh fruits and vegetables will be sold at below-market value prices (approximately 50% of the market rate) at community markets: year-round at the Farm-acy's healthy food corner store and throughout the outdoor growing season at the PCC Austin Farm. The markets will accept nutrition benefits—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), WIC Farmers Market Nutrition program coupons, and Senior coupons—and residents will be able to double their purchase power through WCH's partnership with LINK Up Illinois, an organization that works to increase fresh produce access for low-income residents. Participants in WCH training programs will bring fresh produce home to their families, and a portion of the harvest will be donated to health and social service agencies—food pantries and homeless shelters—in targeted communities where fresh produce is scarce.

Training. The Farm-acy will provide new workforce development opportunities for underserved and justice-involved youth and adults in Youth Farm and Corps, most of whom are low-income, Black, Latino, or multiracial, and a portion of whom experience additional barriers, such as homelessness or addiction. The Youth Farm program at North Lawndale, which engages 16 teens (ages 14-18) spring through fall, will expand to include year-round training. In two ten-week sessions over the fall and winter months, Youth Farm will serve ten teens two hours a day, two days a week, during after-school hours. The curriculum will cover topics relevant to year-round food production, including season extension, aquaponics and hydroponics, food processing and preservation, and on-site produce sales. Students will directly contribute to the operations of the Farm-acy, while benefitting from a mentored, structured learning environment, valuable work experience during the school year, and knowledge and skills to help them serve their communities.

The Farm-acy will also enable WCH to hire an additional 20-30 ex-offenders per year for the Corps program. These trainees will work in crews of three to five with designated supervisors (crew leaders) in 14-week transitional jobs. With guidance from WCH's aquaponics expert, one crew will assist and receive training in the commercial-scale aquaponic and hydroponic growing systems. Another crew will be trained in produce aggregation and distribution. All Corps participants will spend Fridays in the Roots of Success program, a career training curriculum that includes workshops on resume-building and searching for a job and additional lessons designed to assist participants in their return to the community. In partnership with the case management resources of the Safer Foundation and WCH's social worker, Corps participants will be connected with social services. Staff will assist trainees with job placement and continue providing support to facilitate future success.

Evaluation - CBG staff members will use a variety of tools to evaluate the impact of the Food as Medicine project in relation to the intended results and measurements listed under "Impact." WCH training components track application and enrollment numbers, attendance, completion rates, pounds of produce harvested, community farm stand sales, food donations, purchases with federal nutrition benefits, and WIC/prescription produce presentations and distribution. Youth Farm pre- and post-program surveys track improvement in healthy habits, knowledge of agricultural practices, and employability. Corps staff conducts screening surveys, develop individualized employment plans, track job performance, test participants on Roots of Success work readiness curriculum, and track job placement and retention data through 180 days. The effectiveness of physician training will be evaluated through attendance, prescription redemptions at the farm site, and medical staff feedback on a simple post-program survey. Patient and WIC client education programs will be tracked through attendance and post-program surveys. Success in relation to the listed outcomes will be determined by adherence to these measures.

Community members and partners – Low-income Illinois residents served with access to fresh produce and/or nutrition education extend from Oak Lawn, a suburb on Chicago's southwest side, to Waukegan in northern Illinois (a 60-mile span), with a focus on the Chicago communities of North Lawndale and Austin. The Food as Medicine project will primarily serve LCHC and PCC patients—most of whom live in or near North Lawndale and Austin—as well as community residents. A partnership with the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) and the Lake County Health Department to hold nutrition presentations and produce sales at WIC centers across the region will serve mothers and their children who meet low-income eligibility requirements. Families reached through programming at WIC centers will reside in the Chicago communities of Austin and Kelyvn Park, as well as the Oak Lawn, North Chicago, and Waukegan suburbs.

The Food as Medicine project's success will be due in large part to its collaborations with healthcare facilities, recruitment partners, and community organizations. The healthcare partners have served their communities for many years—LCHC since 1984 and PCC since 1992. LCHC cares for over 55,000 patients annually at five health center locations; the main clinic is located three blocks from the North Lawndale youth Farm and Farm-acy site. Ninety-seven percent of its patients are Black or Latino, 53% are on Medicaid, and 32% are uninsured. Similarly, PCC's mission is to improve health outcomes for the medically underserved community through accessible health care at 11 locations on Chicago's West side and in nearby suburbs. Both LCHC and PCC have a commitment to providing quality, affordable health care and the vision to expand their scope to encompass the determinants of health and wellness, including access to healthy food. A new collaboration with the Safer Foundation, one of the nation's largest and most established nonprofit providers of services for people with criminal records, will ensure a steady stream of vetted, qualified candidates for the increased transitional employment training opportunities available at the Farm-acy. With the opening of the Farm-acy, WCH and LCHC will promote produce availability through local nonprofits and churches to attract North Lawndale residents to the facility. The attached letters of collaboration provide further details about community partners and their commitments.

Project Staffing and Oversight – Descriptions for key CBG program personnel for the Food as Medicine project follow.

- Angela Mason, WCH associate vice president, will supervise the project's development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of results. In 12 years with CBG, Mason has been directly responsible for the exponential growth of urban agriculture programs. She develops, evaluates, and enhances programs and curricula, pursues expanded partnerships, develops job opportunities, and pursues new marketing and business developments. Mason represents CBG on numerous advisory boards, including the Illinois Workforce Investment Board and the Illinois Department of Agriculture Veteran Farmer training program task force, and she frequently presents on urban agriculture at regional and national conferences.
- Eliza Fournier, urban youth programs director, will oversee the expansion of Youth Farm programming at the Farm-acy and assist in developing and implementing physician training sessions. She is responsible for staff and site management, recruitment, field trips, evaluation, and curriculum for four Youth Farm sites. Fournier has coordinated CBG's school and community gardening activities for 13 years; she works diligently to export the Youth Farm model to other community agencies locally and nationwide. Fournier received her B.S. in Environmental Studies from Lake Forest College and an M.P.A in Urban Management from Indiana University.
- Kelly Larsen, WCH manager, will oversee the expansion of Corps transitional job programming at the Farm-acy, including formalizing and implementing the partnership with Safer Foundation. Larsen coordinates marketing, recruitment, curriculum development and delivery, and internships for the Corps program. In almost eight years with CBG, Larsen has taken on increased responsibilities for the growth and management of WCH overall. Larsen has a B.S. in Geography and Environmental Studies from Northeastern Illinois University.
- Joan Hopkins, coordinator, WCH Corps, will assist with the recruitment and supervision of transitional job crew activities at the Farm-acy and teach the environmental literacy curriculum to all Corps participants. A member of the WCH nine-month Apprenticeship program's first class eight years ago, Hopkins was hired upon graduation and has been integral to WCH's success in serving ex-offenders.
- Rosario Maldonado, WCH sales coordinator, will aggregate and manage post-harvest handling and produce sales for WCH adult training sites, including the Farm-acy, and manage the produce prescription program. Her responsibilities include coordinating sales and distribution to local vendors, WIC programs, community residents at farmers markets, and produce donations to nonprofits. Maldonado, a 2013 WCH Apprenticeship program graduate, previously worked at a WIC clinic at North Lawndale's Sinai Community Institute.
- Laura Erickson, market coordinator, will be promoted to market manager with the opening of the Farm-acy. She will oversee, aggregate, and distribute produce grown at Youth Farm sites and manage Youth Farm market stands, WIC presentations, and nutrition education programs. With six years of CBG experience, Erickson trains and supports Youth Farm staff and program participants in harvest, post-harvest handling, food safety, and the operation of markets, and WIC and other participant-led presentations, while representing urban food access on city- and state-wide farmers' market task forces. Prior to joining CBG, Erickson earned a B.S. in business management from Bradley University and apprenticed on organic farms in California and Georgia.

- Sam Vergara, coordinator, North Lawndale Youth Farm, will coordinate new Youth Farm programming and supervise student employment at the Farm-acy over the winter months. Vergara, a 2014 WCH Apprenticeship program graduate, is responsible for farm maintenance and production, student development, community outreach, and staff management at the North Lawndale site.

Sequence of Activities - Prior to the grant period, in 2015, CBG and PCC completed the build-out and began to operate the PCC Austin Farm, and CBG and LCHC developed the Farm-acy concept and design. In the first half of 2016, CBG and LCHC will complete the Farm-acy's construction, and WCH staff will begin to develop the curricula and tentative schedule for Farm-acy-based Youth Farm and Corps training. Upon notification of IMLS support and in coordination with the Farm-acy's opening in October 2016, WCH will launch Youth Farm and Corps training programs in November 2016. Both programs will repeat in year two of the grant. WCH staff members will conceptualize and plan LCHC physician training in October 2016 and schedule session(s) in November and subsequent months (exact timing to be determined based on doctor feedback). LCHC physicians will write prescriptions for produce redemption at the Farm-acy year-round, while at PCC, WCH staff will hold physician training in May 2017 to align with the seasonal opening of the PCC Austin Farm. Education programs for LCHC and PCC patients will follow the same schedule—year-round at the Farm-acy and from May through October at PCC. Youth Farm will hold presentations and sell produce at WIC centers from June through mid-August and hold community-based market stands from July to October. Following the first year, staff will evaluate and adapt all components of the Food as Medicine project, share findings to date, and begin planning to adapt, repeat, and enhance programming in the project's second year.

Project Resources - CBG is requesting \$150,000 for this project. CBG will contribute significant staff time toward the project. Requested funds include stipends and benefits for ten Youth Farm participants; salaries and benefits for five Corps transitional jobs participants; supplies and materials; and a contract for curriculum development. WCH staff members will provide their expertise and a solid track record of delivering urban agriculture programs in the Chicago metropolitan area. LCHC and CBG are jointly raising funds to support the construction and opening of the Farm-acy in 2016. Community partners are integral to this project's success, as previously described.

Tracking Progress - WCH staff members involved with the project will meet on an as-needed basis—likely bi-weekly—to plan, monitor, evaluate, and adjust programs as needed. Both Fournier and Larsen will report bi-weekly to Mason. She will provide updates to CBG's vice president of education and community programs in bi-weekly meetings and at education and community program division meetings, held four to six times a year. CBG's senior staff will receive relevant project updates at their weekly meetings, and project updates will be shared with CBG's board of directors and other stakeholders as appropriate. Program staff will adapt program components, including physician and health education trainings, the prescription box program, and Corps and Youth Farm training components, based on ongoing staff and participant feedback from formal surveys and informal feedback. Staff will report progress and discuss program developments and modifications with external project partners on an ongoing basis. The Food as Medicine project will be thoroughly reviewed after its first year with input from partners, and adjustments will be made for the second year as indicated in the review process.

Sharing Project Results - The program model and participant outcomes will be reported to colleagues in CBG's urban agriculture networks, in CBG publications, through affiliated government agencies, and with botanic garden partners. Associate Vice President Mason will make a presentation about the project at the American Public Gardens Association annual conference in 2017. CBG will report about the project in its *Keep Growing* member magazine, on the website and "My Chicago Botanic Garden" blog, and through other social media. CBG's government affairs department will invite local, county, state, and federal elected officials, staff, and agency personnel to learn about the program and meet participants. Periodic reports will be provided to the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Board of Commissioners and Cook County leadership. WCH staff, students, and graduates regularly share best practices at regional and national conferences and related events and host influential business and community leaders at farm sites. In addition, one of the most effective forms of disseminating the program models is the WCH training participants who become advocates for food access, nutrition education, and urban agriculture through careers, new business development, and leadership in their communities.

Evaluate final results of project for inclusion in final report																										
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--