



The Education Fund's Plant A Thousand Gardens Collaborative Nutrition Initiative

**APPLICATION DUE:
Postmarked by 9/11/2009**

What is the Plant a Thousand Gardens Collaborative Nutrition Initiative?

The Plant a Thousand Gardens Collaborative Nutrition Initiative (CNI) is a student-centered, seed-to-table garden program that seeks to improve students' nutritional knowledge and habits as well as improve their academic outcomes in science, math, reading and other curriculum areas through hands-on, collaborative learning. CNI is the brainchild of The Education Fund, a non-profit organization created to support Miami-Dade public schools. (Visit www.educationfund.org for more information).

As part of CNI, three member school teams, consisting of two second-grade teachers and one administrator (AP or Principal), receive training and support from Barry University professors, who act as consultants to The Education Fund. At monthly trainings, these professors educate participants in ways to incorporate nutritional literacy and knowledge into the curriculum and to engage parents and other stakeholders in the program. Of equal importance is the team training in action-research procedures. Action research is a process that enables teachers to analyze the effectiveness of their instruction through data collection, evaluation and reflection. The school team will learn to collect and analyze classroom data to determine the impact of the CNI initiative on their students and present their results in PowerPoint presentations or through presenting boards.

Through CNI and under the tutelage of the school team, students plant, maintain and harvest vegetable/herb gardens over the course of an entire year. Culinary and taste education and hands-on lessons on health, nutrition and dietary choices will be part of this interdisciplinary approach. The experience will include interactive evening and weekend workshops for parents and families on these same subjects, plus harvesting, preparation of family recipes and other ideas that are generated by the schools' staff.

Who is eligible to apply?

M-DCPS Elementary schools and K-8 Centers that have two (2) second-grade teachers and one (1) Assistant Principal or Principal willing to participate for the entire 2009-2010 school year are invited to apply. All schools are eligible for the CNI program, however, funding is limited. The funding provided will be for materials only. All materials purchased for the CNI program must remain with the school. Schools may choose to provide a stipend for the participating teachers or provide matching funds to be used for supplies, which will allow a portion of The Education Fund's grant to be used for teacher stipends. Alternatively, schools that do not receive funding and would still like to participate will be eligible for professional-development points by attending monthly Saturday meetings.

What are the benefits of being involved in the Collaborative Nutrition Initiative program?

BENEFITS FOR THE SCHOOL

- A grant of \$1,800 to purchase vegetable/herb seeds, cooking and other supplies, and host parent activities. **(NOTE: Schools that provide matching funds of \$500 or more may use \$500 of the grant to pay each teacher a \$250 stipend if the school chooses.)**

- Assistance from an Education Fund coordinator with organizing activities or with other program support as requested
- Assistance in identifying community resources to support the project
- Visits/consulting from a master gardener to help plant and maintain your school's garden

BENEFITS FOR EACH TEACHER IN THE PROJECT

- Master Plan Points (up to 60 MPP)
- Professional development sessions and guidance from Barry University professors who are experts in the fields of Action Research and school garden projects
- An opportunity to be part of a learning community

BENEFITS FOR EACH ADMINISTRATOR IN THE PROJECT

- Professional development sessions and guidance from two Barry University professors who are experts in the fields of Action Research and school garden projects
- An opportunity to be part of a learning community

Please answer the three questions listed below by providing narrative responses on 1-2 attached pages, then please complete questions 4-12 by checking the appropriate boxes and submit with the attached completed cover pages:

1. What do you want to accomplish by receiving this grant? (1-3 paragraphs)
2. Would it complement the goals of your school? How? (1-3 paragraphs)
3. Please describe your school team. (1-3 paragraphs plus biographies of 3 proposed participants)
4. Is your school willing to provide matching funds?
 Yes No If yes, what amount of funding will be provided for garden supplies, cooking activities, parent workshops or teacher stipends? \$_____
5. School teams are expected to help disseminate information about the success of this project in the year the grant is awarded. Are the members of the team willing to make this commitment?
 Yes No

6. Are all team members willing to attend training sessions on a Saturday once a month (2 teachers and 1 administrator)?
Yes No
7. Would your school be willing to host one of the training sessions on a Saturday from 9am-3pm (not required to receive grant but certainly considered)?
Yes No
8. Do you have space on school property for the garden?
Yes No
9. Do you have a garden already at your school? (Not required to participate in the grant)
Yes No If yes, what type of garden? _____
10. Are both teachers and administrator willing to participate in Action Research? (Previous experience not required and a paper will **not** be required)
Yes No
11. Would your school be interested in participating in CNI even if you do not receive funding (i.e. would you want to be able to have two teachers and administrator attend monthly CNI training and receive Master Plan Points)?
Yes No

The following are the dates for the monthly training sessions. School teams will need to attend all sessions to receive the most out of the program, but are required to attend the beginning sessions. Please note if there are any sessions you cannot attend and why. Otherwise, please hold these dates on your calendar as your school may be notified of acceptance shortly before the sessions begin.

Dates	Reason one or more of your team will not be in attendance
Saturday, September 26, 2009	
Saturday, October 10, 2009	
Saturday, November 21, 2009	
Saturday, December 12, 2009	
Saturday, January 9, 2010	
Saturday, February 13, 2010	
Saturday, March 13, 2010	
Saturday, April 10, 2010	

We will attend all sessions.

Plant a Thousand Gardens Collaborative Nutrition Initiative (CNI) Cover Page

Applicant Information

School:

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Region:

Please state the percentage of free lunch at your school:

Participant Information

Principal's Name:

Participants (2 second grade teachers and 1 administrator – AP/Principal)

2nd Grade Teacher's Name:

Email:

Home Phone:
School Phone:

2nd Grade Teacher's Name:

Email:

Home Phone:
School Phone:

Administrator's Name:

Email:

Title:

Administrator's Home Phone:

Administrator's School Phone:

(Note: we ask for home phone numbers as many educators are difficult to reach at school.)

Signatures

*I have read the application package and understand the commitment of the school, teachers and administrators.
Please sign and date.*

Teacher:

Date:

Teacher:

Date:

Participating Administrator:

Date:

Principal (If not participating)

Date: