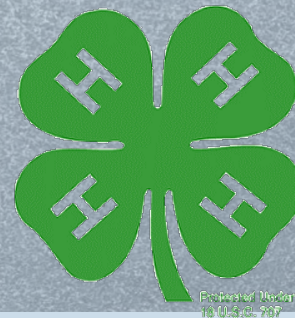


Preparing the Next Generation of Urban Food and Agriculture Changemakers Rutgers Cooperative Extension

June 15, 2023

National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL) Northeast
Regional Conference

CLAUDIA URDANIVIA
SHARON KINSEY
MARISSA STAFFEN
RACHEL LYONS
AMY ROWE
DELMA YORIMOTO



RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

Background

- New pilot program. 5-year funding through CYFAR SCP Projects
- Hudson County and Camden County in NJ
- Potential of Positive Youth Development programming for teenagers in urban areas: incorporating social, emotional learning
- Dual challenge of lack of access to fresh, healthy foods and a lack of opportunities for teens to explore careers in food and agricultural sciences in urban underserved communities
- Urban agriculture is emerging a source of affordable food in communities experiencing low access to healthy food/ food apartheid

Program Goal and Description

- 13-month leadership and skill-building program
- **GOAL:** to engage urban at-risk teens of diverse backgrounds in community-based food systems education and urban agriculture training, centered on social justice and food security in their own communities of Camden and Jersey City, N.J
- Teens examine local issues tied to food security
- Implement rich community engagement with community partners and stakeholders
- Targets teens ages 14-18 in specific neighborhoods of Jersey City and Camden
- Establish 4 cohorts
- Team of professionals from 4-H and planning support from ANR and FCHS colleagues
- Projected kick-off: March 2024

Existing Models

- The Food Project
- 4-H THRIVE Model
- 4-H: Farmpreneur Program (Essex) and Sustainability Ambassadors (Hudson)
- Soul Fire Farm Youth Immersion Program



Program Activities

Phase I: Planning (CYFAR Coach, CYFAR Team, Key Personnel Colleagues, Evaluator, Community Partners)

Phase II: Implementation and Evaluation

Teens attend weekly or bi-weekly interactive virtual or in-person lessons on local, regional, and global food systems issues, local food security and health disparity, social justice	SPRING
Teens complete interactive classroom lessons on plant science, soils, crop planning, etc.	SPRING
Teens transition to hands-on intensive time in an urban garden in their community (3x/wk) and teach younger youth and families about gardening during the summer intensive portion of the program. Teens participate in field trip. Conclude season with Farm event.	SUMMER
Teens will research and present social justice issues related to local food access and food security in their communities and complete Food Systems Action Plan.	SPRING/SUMMER/FALL WINTER CAPSTONE
Teens immersed in additional 4-H county and statewide opportunities.	ONGOING
Teens will develop their leadership skills by becoming spokespersons for their community on food justice issues and work to initiate change.	FALL

Desired Short and Long-term Results

Short-term

- Increased interest in social justice and sustainable food systems
- Develop urban agriculture skills
- Connection to 4-H

Medium-term

- Change in knowledge, attitudes, skills related to food systems and urban agriculture
- Demonstrate leadership capacities and create community partnerships
- Participate in county and statewide 4-H programming

Long-term

- Creation and implementation of Food Systems Action Plan grounded in food justice and health equity
- Teens practice collective leadership in enabling change in their communities
- Teens integrated into long-term 4-H opportunities

Leadership and Changemaking

Hudson County 4-H Sustainability Ambassadors Sustainability Action Plan Toolkit

Your Name: _____

Section 1: Reflection

- Sustainability
 - *In your own words, to the best of your ability, define what sustainability means to you and why you think it's important and/or relevant. (example: sustainability to me means ending wasteful practices that harm the environment.)*

 - *So what? Why should others care and/or take action? (example: others should take action to leave behind a better planet for the future.)*

THANK YOU!

Claudia Urdanivia

cru1@njaes.Rutgers.edu