

View results

Respondent

11 Whitney Welsh

01:24

Time to complete

Instructions:

Please adhere to the session word counts. Project leads must attend one SSC working group meeting post step 1 application submission. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC at Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.

1. Have you attended a working group meeting and presented your project to the committee before this application? The SSC requires attendance at a working group meeting to remain eligible for SSC funding. If you have not attended a working group meeting, please do so and then continue the application.

Linked below is our calendar with all of our working group meetings
<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/calendar/>

*

Yes

No

2. Please enter the dates of the working group meetings you attended. As a reminder, the working group meetings are structured as followed:

- Energy + Transportation and Infrastructure working group.
- Food & Waste + Land, Air, and Water working group.
- Education and Justice working group.

*

11/8/2023

3. Project Name: *

Accessible Gardening in Orchard Downs

4. Total Funding Requested From the SSC. *

17,500

5. Date of application. *

6. Project Lead Full Name: *

7. Project Lead University Email Address. *

8. Project Abstract: (In less than 100 words, briefly describe the project.) *

Family & Graduate Housing, a unit within University Housing, wants to provide a sustainable, accessible gardening opportunity for all students and their dependents living in the 1,100 university owned apartments. Currently, there is no accessible gardening anywhere within the apartments. Through this project, a space will be created with raised garden beds so all students will benefit, not just able-bodied students to grow their own food thus implementing a sustainable practice.

9. Project Category *

- Education & Justice
- Energy
- Food & Waste
- Land, Air & Water
- Transportation & Infrastructure

10. Do you have a change in team members? *

- Yes
- No

Project Team Member List (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisors info)

Project Lead

11. Full Name: *

12. RSO/Department *

13. University Email Address: *

14. Do you have a faculty/staff advisor? *

Yes

No

Project Team Member List (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisors info)

Additional Member

15. Full Name:

16. RSO/Department

17. University Email Address:

18. Do you have additional Members? *

Yes

No

Project Questionnaire:

19. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project must acknowledge SSC funding. How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported? *

This project will be publicized through the Family & Graduate Housing E-Newsletter acknowledging SSC and any funding it provides, as well as a permanent sign being installed in the garden area recognizing SSC as the funding source.

20. Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.

Please attach letters of commitment or support below *

The stakeholders are University Housing (Family & Graduate Housing and Facilities), residents living in the apartments at Family & Graduate Housing (able bodied and non able bodied), and all gardeners (community members and those living in University Housing).

21. Please attach any letters of commitment or support here along with any other supplemental media that will support your application (presentations, pictures, etc.)

 [Letter of support - Accessible Gardening in O. Whitney Welsh.pdf](#)

 [OD accessible garden letter of support Whitney Welsh.pdf](#)

22. How does this project impact environmental and social justice? 250 word max *

According to the Hope Center Survey (2021) 30% of students at four-year universities claimed they were food insecure. Through this project, students are able to grow their own nutritious food thus providing themselves with a sustainable way to meet one of their basic needs. This project takes it a step further and provides an opportunity for all students, not just able bodied students, to grow their own healthy food. By providing a space for all students to garden, they not only grow their own food, but they also can plant native plants to support the environment. When a student has their basic needs met, they can then concentrate more on their studies and helping their community.

23. Where is the project located, does it require Facilities and Services permissions? *

The site for this project is outside of the Orchard Downs Community Center (510 George Huff Dr., Urbana IL 61801). It has the support of University Housing Facilities.

24. Is this project student led? *

Yes

No

25. If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities & Services and/or site manager? *

Yes

No

N/A

26. Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC does not guarantee ongoing financial support) *

Yes

No

27. Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? *

Yes

No

28. Have you applied for SSC funding previously? *

Yes

No

29. Project Timeline:

(SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. List your project's proposed end date.) *

Construction of garden beds start 2/1/24 with completion on 3/1/24

Preparing and laying the ground material (depends on weather) 3/1/24-3/15/24

Install water spigot from 3/18/24 - 3/22/24

Installing fence around area from 3/25/24-3/29/24

Installing garden beds by 4/1/24 - 4/5/24

Adding soil and bench from 4/8/24 - 4/12/24

Completion by 4/15/24

30. Provide a detailed project description:

(In 400 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project's deliverables?) *

We aim to enhance sustainability and accessibility for all students and residents living in university apartments by providing a sustainable opportunity to produce their own food. This project would establish a permanent location for all students and their dependents, not just able-bodied individuals to garden.

This project will create a 30 foot by 50 foot space made out of decomposed crushed granite located near the Orchard Downs Community Center with eight raised garden beds on it. The garden beds will be made out of wood and constructed within Facilities in University Housing. A water spigot will be installed and a water line run to the area. A black chain fence will surround the space to keep wildlife out and to support plants. Soil and a bench will be donated from University Housing Facilities for the space. Tools for gardeners will be provided by Family & Graduate Housing. The raised garden beds will be used at least six months out of the year by students and residents living in Family & Graduate Housing. Any future maintenance of the area will be handled through University Housing Facilities. This project will be accomplished in partnership with University Housing Facilities and maintained for many years into the future.

The proposed budget has increased from Step 1 due to the addition of the installation of a water line and water spigot, and creating an accessible path from the sidewalk to the area the raised garden beds are on.

31. Environmental Impact:

(In 200 words or less, how does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings?) *

The environmental impact will be reduced through sustainable gardening by reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon storage in soil and plants. By students growing their food, there will be less food waste in landfills and reduced emissions by not using transportation to buy their food.

32. iCAP Objective Correspondence:

(In 200 words or less, does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, how?)

A full list can be found here: <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/objectives>

This project aims to advance multiple objectives of the Illinois Climate Action Plan by reducing landfill waste and producing food locally. By producing their own food, students don't have packaging from food bought in stores and conserve energy associated with long-distance transportation of food.
5.2 Reduce Landfill waste
5.6 Use Local Food

33. Student Impact:

(In 200 words or less, how will this project benefit students? How will students be involved with this project? What educational components are in your project?) *

This project will impact many students living in the apartments by providing them an alternative to buying their own food, as well as making gardening accessible to all students and not just abled-bodied ones. Students will be able to use the raised garden beds six months out of the year.
Student interns and graduate assistants will also play a part in assisting the accessible gardens through hours of programs and informational sessions every year. We have a current partnership with the Community Health Program at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Through this partnership, student interns will devote at least 10% of their 250 hours to creating content on sustainable practices, which includes gardening for the thousands of residents living in the apartments at Family & Graduate Housing. The student Graduate Assistant will also devote 10% of their hours to programs and events on sustainability.

Project Finances

34. See attached file, please be very descriptive and fill out the finalized budget and timeline Excel sheet, and submit it below.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx> *

 [SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline Step 2_Whitney_Welsh.xlsx](#)

35. Project Finance Manager.

Must be a fulltime UIUC faculty or staff member** *

Whitney Welsh

36. Finance Project Manager Department *

University Housing - Family & Graduate Housing

37. Project Finance Manager University Email *

wwelsh2@illinois.edu