**Funding Criteria**

**A. General Rules**

1. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit requests for funding up to $750. All projects require stakeholder support in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects on university property submitted from students.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an indirect impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive.
6. SSC generally won’t fund reimbursement requests.

**B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis**

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
3. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.

**C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:**

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.
4. SSC will not fund micro grant proposals that solely request staff, faculty, or student stipends.
5. SSC will not fund capital projects using micro grant funding.
6. SSC will not fund staff or faculty projects using micro grant funding.

**Your SSC funding application should include this application and a detailed itemized budget.**

*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation to* *Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu**. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*

**General Information**

Project Name:

Total Amount Requested from SSC (≤ $750): $750

Project Topic Areas: [ ]  Land & Water [ ]  Education [ ]  Energy

[ ]  Transportation [ ]  Food & Waste

**Contact Information**

Applicant Name: Sydney Curts

Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Grow2Give RSO

Email Address: scurts2@illinois.edu

Check one:

 This project is solely my own ***OR***

 X This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): Grow2Give

(Optional)

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Matt Turino
Advisor’s Email Address: turino@illinois.edu

Advisor’s Phone Number: 217-722-3316

**Project Information**

*Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting to talk through your proposal before you submit it.*

*1) Provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes.*

Grow2Give is a new RSO on campus that is committed to creating more green spaces on campus, as well as making produce more accessible and affordable. To do so, we will be building and maintaining raised garden beds on campus. Fresh produce that is grown will then be distributed to RSO members and the campus community.

*2) How will this project improve sustainability at UIUC?*

We will work to create more green spaces around campus and making it an accessible area to the UIUC community. Additionally, our project is sustainable within itself. Once the beds are built, they are weather resistant and are made to last for years to come. Also, our produce will be affordable and accessible to the community. This is to ensure access to healthy foods to our campus!

*3) Where will the project be located? Do you need special permissions to enact the project at this site? If so, please explain and attach a letter of support to your application.*

We have been approved for two garden beds at this point in time. One will be near the Red Oak Rain Gardens and the other at the Architectural Annex. We are hoping to expand this over time. Our letter of support from Facilities and Services will be attached.

*4) Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments indirectly or directly affiliated to this project. This includes any funding entities (immediate, future, ongoing, etc.) and any entities that will be benefiting from this project*

Our faculty advisor is the farm manager of the Student Sustainable Farm (SSF). Therefore, we will have opportunities to collaborate with the farm. Additionally, the SSF and Champaign Lowes were generous enough to donate some materials. INB Bank made a monetary donation to our project. Lastly, we have applied to become a YMCA student organization. As of now, this application is still being processed but benefits include use of space, mailing, office supplies, etc.

*5) How will you ensure the sustained existence/maintenance of this project (including reporting requirements) once you are no longer involved? If the project will conclude while you are involved, what will happen to the materials purchased for the project and how will you return the project site to its original condition?*

Our garden beds will be built to last for many years. This means that they will be available to the members after us, which ensures nothing but room for our organization to continue expanding to other places on campus. To ensure proper upkeep, our executive team will be required to report the condition of the beds weekly—this will often be done on harvest days. Reports will be sent to our secretary who will keep a record to pass on to the next team. We want to be sure that the transition between teams is as smooth as possible. If for some reason our beds need to be removed, the project site can easily be returned to its original condition by simply removing the raised bed- they do not cause much damage to the area.

*6) Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?*

Grow2Give is dedicated to making the green area accessible to students and returning any produce grown to the student community for free (unless it is a special occasion/fundraiser). This is a student organization, so it is up to them (the student members) to maintain the beds and all the organization is involved in.

*7) Have you applied for funding with SSC previously? If so, for what project?*

No, I have not.

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget Verification**

*What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones. Please be as detailed as possible.*

As of March 17th, 2021, Grow2Give will be considered an official RSO at UIUC. Upon approval, our executive members will meet weekly for the remainder of the month in preparation of welcoming our general members at the beginning of April. We have a tentative general meeting date of April 7th where we will hold an informational session explaining the purpose and goals of Grow2Give to those who expressed interest. From there on out, meetings will be help biweekly. Once funding requirements have been met, our team will begin to build the raised garden beds. Dependent on funding, we would like to start this growing season with two raised beds. Once the beds are built, they will be placed, and planting will begin immediately (no later than May). Harvest days will be rotated throughout the group and produce will be returned to the volunteers of that day first, and then to the campus community next. Harvest will occur around twice a week depending on the crop. In the off season, we will fundraise, plan out the next season, and have guest speakers during our biweekly meetings. We will keep an unofficial report semesterly but will not submit a final report to the RSO office until the end of the academic year.

*List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested. Please be as detailed as possible. You are welcome to submit a separate budgeting document.*

We have attached an additional pdf spreadsheet.

*If the project is implemented, will there be any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs? (Note: SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding)*

There will be ongoing funding required if we decide to expand our RSO and make more beds. Also, we will have the minor cost of plants each year. Our finance team and treasurer have already begun planning of fundraisers. This is what is planned at this time: an internal fundraiser of Grow2Give gear; an Illini raffle basket; a pumpkin fundraiser in October

*Please include any other sources of funding that have been obtained or applied for, and please attach any relevant letters of support.*

We have none currently, but plan to start fundraising in ~April.

*What is the plan for publicizing the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project get reported?*

As of now, we have reached out to the NRES and CPSC departments to advertise for us via email. Additionally, we will be hanging flyers around campus to recruit members. It is our hope to eventually partner with other sustainably-focused groups on campus for both advertising and fundraising purposes. However, COVID is a large barrier with this. Information about our RSO will be reported in our annual report to the RSO Office.