

JONESBOROUGH AGRICULTURE LEARNING CENTER PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The Town of Jonesborough is partnering with the Washington County School System and local agriculture based agencies to develop an Agriculture Learning Center (ALC) in association with the construction of a new Jonesborough K-8 School currently in design. The request of the State of Tennessee is for a one time \$300,000 appropriation to construct to ALC facility.

Purpose – The construction of the ALC will provide a venue specifically designed to enhance the teaching of younger school age students the following:

- Sustainable gardening and small farm skills and concepts
- Techniques in growing healthier produce and food products in a more urban environment
- Good nutrition and the importance of healthier lifestyles
- Proper food preparation skills

In addition, the project will use local personnel expertise to develop a dynamic and innovative agriculture-based curriculum for K-8 students.

Need – The development of the Agriculture Learning Center is very important for the following reasons:

- As urban growth expands we are losing farms and the skills associated with growing and healthy use of locally produced food products.
- More innovative techniques in growing your own food like raised beds, small greenhouses, vertical and container gardens, etc. as well as the development of community gardens need to be taught to existing and new generations.
- With more frequent periodic job losses, pandemics, catastrophic weather events, etc. people need to be more self-reliant; producing themselves what is needed for survival.
- Young people are growing up in an information age, and develop life-long interests earlier in life; self-reliant skills need to be taught at an earlier age.

Facility Components – The ALC will be the only facility in the region and possibly the state designed to teach gardening and small farming skills, proper preparation and healthy cooking skills and concepts in a public K-8 school setting. The facility will contain the following components:

- Classroom area with tables, white boards and the technical connections needed for digital screens
- Potting shed area with cleaning and rinse stations, container and nutrient storage
- Covered section of an open pavilion for fair weather instruction/classroom expansion
- Walk-in cooler
- Small commercial kitchen designed for instruction with outlets for individual cooking units
- Storage room
- Restrooms

Curriculum – The ALC partners will establish a curriculum committee when the building is being designed that immediately works to develop a K-8 teaching curriculum and guide that will:

- Research quality aspects of any existing programs across the country that through various agencies may be teaching agriculture skills to young children

- Sequence the learning exercises that are teaching skills and concepts based on the age and grade of the students being taught
- Send for approval the K-8 curriculum to the Washington County Board of Education and the State Department of Education for review and approval.
- Be made available to any other school system or initiative in Tennessee that desires to establish a similar education program.
- Develop a training program for instructors using a community-based education model

Partners – The ALC project in Jonesborough has a number of enthusiastic partners, which are as follows:

- Town of Jonesborough: Key staff: Glenn Rosenoff– Town Administrator, Bob Browning – Project Manager
- Appalachian Resource and Conservation Council: Key staff: Susan McKinney – Executive Director, Lexy Close - Beginning Farmer Services Director
- Washington County Schools: Key staff: Dr. Bill Flanary – Director of Schools, Ryan Arnett – Agriculture Instructor at Crockett High School, Josh Conger – Agriculture Instructor at Crockett High School
- Grand Oak Farm and Green Earth Connection: Key staff: Dana York, owner of Certified Naturally Grown Farm (former Associate Chief for USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service in Washington DC).
- Washington County Extension Service– Key staff: Adam Watson– Extension Agent II Elizabeth Renfro – Family Consumer Science Agent
- Jonesborough Locally Grown (Farmers Market/Boones Creek Mkt) Key staff: David Phillips – Boones Creek Mkt Manager/Chef, Shelly Crowe – Marketing Coordinator
- Washington County Soil District – Key staff: Roy L Gillis – Chairman, Rebecca Carr – District staff
- Natural Resource Conservation Service – Key staff: Greg Quillen – District Conservationist

Project Oversight – The Town of Jonesborough will oversee construction of the ACL facility in coordination with the construction of the new Jonesborough K-8 School

Sustainability: The request of the State of Tennessee for funding assistance of \$300,000 is a one-time request with no additional or future requests for operations and maintenance funding. If the ALC building is constructed, there is local support through entities like the Farm Bureau and Washington Farmers Co-Op as well as the partner agencies and local community to cover the on-going expense of materials and supplies and the cost of instruction. The Town of Jonesborough will assist with facility and grounds maintenance and utilities.

Budget	<u>Cost Classification</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Funded by</u>
	Land, right of ways, utilities	\$ 99,800	Town of Jonesborough
	Architectural & Engineering Fees	\$ 12,500	State of TN Allocation
	Project Inspection	\$ 2,000	Town of Jonesborough
	Site Work	\$ 31,400	Town of Jonesborough
	Building Construction	\$287,500	State of TN Allocation
	Equipment	\$ 25,000	Expected Grant Funding
	Curriculum Development	\$ 20,000	Expected Grant Funding
	Furnishings	\$ 20,000	Local Donations/Fundraising
	Contingencies	\$ 12,000	Local Donations/Fundraising
	Total Cost:	\$510,200	