



## Legislation Text

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File #: 32518, Version: 1

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### Fiscal Note

Funds are included in the 2014 Adopted Public Health Operating Budget. There is no anticipated impact on the tax levy.

### Title

Authorizing a contract with Forward Community Investments to develop Gardens for Empowerment

### Body

#### Preamble:

The 2014 Public Health Operating Budget set aside \$65,000 for the development of a community-based initiative called Gardens for Empowerment (G4E) using a social innovation model. G4E is founded on the evidence that where people live, work and play has a significant impact on health status. The central components are related to youth and community development with a focus on urban greening. Outcomes are employment readiness among at-risk youth while setting the stage to increase residents' capacity to grow healthier, more resilient neighborhoods. Over the long-term, residents' capacity to actively participate in economic development initiatives will also increase.

G4E currently uses gardening for youth development in two Madison neighborhoods with some early successes. Over the past three years over 35 youth ages 14-16 have completed the "Clean and Freshies" (Meadowood) or "Green Team" (Brentwood) employment program as part of the *Gardens for Empowerment* initiative. Nearly 200 neighborhood residents have volunteered in Madison's Meadowood and Brentwood neighborhoods, where residents serve as urban agriculture coordinators. Working together the front yards of multi-unit apartment buildings in these neighborhoods have been transformed into vibrant, edible gardens.

Through a partnership with Forward Community Investments, a Community Development Financial Institution, the initiative will offer technical assistance in financial and operational management to participating nonprofits while establishing a sustainable financing model that can leverage private dollars. In the process, no new organizations are created; instead, the initiative leverages existing community assets. In conversations with several agencies and Forward Community Investments, there also seems to be potential interest and funding to sustain operations, but start-up funds are needed to hire the coordinator.

MGO 4.26 requires a request for proposal (RFP) process for contracts over \$25,000, although it allows exceptions to sole source a contract with approval of Common Council. With this resolution, Common Council is being asked to authorize a one-year contract with Forward Community Investments, Inc. to hire the coordinator, develop, and secure funding to sustain G4E. Funding will only be provided for one year.

#### Body:

WHEREAS Public Health-Madison and Dane County and the other founding G4E partners, Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Inc., Dane County UW-Extension, Edgewood College, Madison Media Institute, Community Action Coalition, Community Groundworks and UW Cooperative Extension are committed to the success of this effort;

WHEREAS Forward Community Investments is uniquely qualified to provide technical support to non-profits to assure G4E is a sustainable endeavor and Public Health-Madison and Dane County believes that a contract with Forward Community Investments is the best interest of the City of Madison and Dane County; and

WHEREAS the Inter-Governmental Agreement created Public Health-Madison and Dane County requires that the department follow City of Madison purchasing guidelines, and MGO 4.26 allows exceptions to the request-for-proposal process with approval of the Common Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Madison authorizes the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County, on behalf of Public Health-Madison and Dane County to enter into a contract for \$65,000 with Forward Community Investments, Inc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the term of the contract is for one year and is not renewable. The Director of Public Health-Madison and Dane County is authorized to sign the agreement.