

Budget

Fairborn Digital Academy (149088) - Greene County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (439)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

[Plus/Minus Sheet \(opens new window\)](#)

Purpose Code	Object Code	Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction		33,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	34,100.00
Support Services		10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Governance/Admin		5,000.00	0.00	0.00	825.00	0.00	0.00	5,825.00
Prof Development		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Family/Community		0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Safety		0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	125.00
Facilities		0.00	0.00	1,146.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	1,446.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		48,000.00	0.00	1,896.00	2,350.00	0.00	0.00	52,246.00
Adjusted Allocation								0.00
Remaining								-52,246.00

Application

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Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity

1. Project Title: Full Circle Health

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 9 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

The population at FDA is an amalgamation of students, 70% of whom are challenged every day by the basic necessities of life: food, clothing and/or shelter. The level of economic disadvantage combined with mitigating factors such as involvement with Children's Services and the court system, parental absence, abandonment or neglect, history of assault, illiteracy in the family, personal or family illness, and poverty and/or homelessness undermine our students' efforts to succeed. Underlying all of this is the lack of nutrition that is vital to any educational effort. Thus, we wish to instill skills and knowledge that will forever affect the education, health, and success of our students. We intend to help break the cycle of poverty and ignorance among our families; to improve overall student achievement by teaching valuable lifetime skills while students benefit from credit recovery, better health, and improved sense of self. The project gives even the most impoverished students the opportunity to be a part of something and give back. The center of this plan is the creation of a 20,000 ft school garden on the school grounds. We have received approval from Fairborn City Schools Superintendent and the City of Fairborn. The garden will be a neighborhood amenity that will engage our students, faculty and families with activities that relate to core subjects such as: designing plans, planting, weeding, watering, composting, maintaining, growing, harvesting, building a green stand, selling, cooking, consuming and donating fruits and vegetables from the garden. All sales will go toward future gardening efforts, thus this project is self-sustaining. We will cooperate with Greene County Career Center in building a green stand and the OSU Extension office in teaching our students gardening basics. Hands-on education will be in conjunction with online courses in which students will be tested and earn credits. 80% of our students struggle with earning PE credits; again, substandard nutrition in the home is one very large reason. We plan to extend our classroom outdoors so our students can earn credits in a noncompetitive environment while experiencing a sense of accomplishment and the proven physical and therapeutic effects of the gardening process. Family involvement will be an integral part of the effort, and families will benefit from the fresh vegetables to take home. We will offer cooking classes at the school and plan to produce a student cookbook to sell and raise funds to support the following year's garden.

170 3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Molly Bordonaro

Organizational name of lead applicant: Fairborn Digital Academy

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): [REDACTED]

Address of lead applicant: 700 Black Lane, Fairborn, OH 45324

Phone Number of lead applicant: 937-999-8405

Email Address of lead applicant: mhall@fairborndigital.us

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: N/A

Organizational name of secondary applicant: N/A

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): N/A

Address of secondary applicant: N/A

Phone number of secondary applicant: N/A

Email address of secondary applicant: N/A

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

N/A

7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support: - (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

* Letters of support are for districts in academic or fiscal distress only. If school or district is in academic or fiscal distress and has a commission assigned, please include a resolution from the commission in support of the project.

* If a partnership or consortium will be established, please include the signed Straight A Description of Nature of Partnership or Description of Nature of Consortium Agreement.

[UploadGrantApplicationAttachment.aspx](#)

8. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project including relevant experience in other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

Paulus Lawn and Landscape, LLC Fairborn, Ohio, experienced landscape company locally owned, is creating 20,000 sq. ft. garden with plowing, disking, tilling and fertilizing, as well as bedding plants and garden seed. Ohio State University Extension Service, Drexel University Eat.Right.Now curriculum Erik Tritsch, Principal of FDA, Director of Special Education Cheryl Brown, Intervention Specialist Jessica Dixon, Intervention Specialist Erik Wright, Accountability Coach Matthew Shoemaker, Accountability Coach Molly Bordonaro, Contracted Consultant, Writer and Volunteer FDA Students will have the primary responsibility as part of earned credits, and will receive specific assignments to take care of the garden in all seasons. We are inviting the members of Fairborn Senior Center to be involved with the garden. Staff has expressed interest in volunteering with gardening, cooking classes and creating a cookbook.

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)

- Student achievement
- Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast
- Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one):

- New - never before implemented
- Existing and researched-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments
- Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements
- Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project.

A School Garden and Nutrition Program: At-risk, nutrition-deficient and credit-deficient, and special education students will be involved in preparing, planting, growing and consuming a vegetable garden, fruits and berries, incorporating core subjects and a nutrition component that will advance their education and lifetime skills, while improving their health. Family and community involvement will support this effort to teach self-reliance along with science, math, sociology, business basics, and the self-respect that comes from success and giving back. Benefits of our garden that have been proven by research include: curriculum integration, physical activity, cooperation and community development, personal, social and emotional development, nutrition education, issues of hunger, artistic expression, environmental education, and agricultural education. We will combine the garden project with online nutrition curriculum from Drexel University.

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. - If school/district receives school improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan.

We will increase the number of students who successfully navigate and graduate from high school by extending our classroom outside, and engaging them in a hands-on approach to learning core subjects, and we will include family involvement as well as FDA intervention specialists and accountability coaches. We will teach our students how to stay healthy with elective nutrition classes combined

with physical education.

C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown

13. Financial Documentation - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

a. Enter a project budget

b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

c. If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

N/A, see b.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

52,246.00 * Total project cost

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RttT money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

First-year additional instruction estimated at \$33,000 Assistance and support for startup: est. 10,000 Administration first-year coordination: 5,000 Family/Community Services in creation of garden plot: \$750 to students who cannot afford gloves and work shoes Improvement of Facilities (school water lines accessible): \$1146 Supplies and equipment: \$2350

15. What **new/recurring costs** of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

0.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

We do not expect for there to be new or recurring costs for the Full Circle Health project, because this is designed to be sustained by the school and the students. After the initial expense, students will be responsible for continuation of the garden as part of the school curriculum, which includes Title I funds. The garden concept will continue to be used in all seasons as a valuable tool to teach core subjects, thus the instruction time will remain the same with no increase in salaries or contracted personnel. We are applying for supplemental funds for a jogging/walking path, a disc golf course, exercise equipment, work gloves, and other items through Lowe's and Aetna. We also expect to apply for Straight A funds next year to assist in these initiatives.

16. Are there **expected savings** that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?

0.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.)

Although this is not a dollar amount we believe that this will attract more students to Fairborn Digital Academy. With more students will come more allocations for our school. There will be savings and genuine benefit to our students and families who will have access to more nutritious food, and better knowledge of nutrition and how it relates to health and learning. Instead of just giving them food, we will be teaching them to grow their own nutritious food.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that will be made that are at least equal to the amount of new/recurring costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurring costs, explain in detail how this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

We expect the garden to be an ongoing, self-sustaining enterprise: to produce tomatoes, corn, squash, pumpkins, spinach, beans and other healthful vegetables, as well as blackberries and blueberries, herbs such as basil and rosemary, apples and flowers. Many items, such as dill and strawberries, reseed and regenerate on their own. Our students will harvest items to sell and distribute to the food bank as part of their curriculum. We will apply any proceeds from our sales to further expenses in order to continue the garden into the future. We will also create a cookbook that students will sell to raise funds for the following year. We have a volunteer who will lead the cookbook production and also to teach classes in how to prepare the vegetables.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of this project. In each explanation, be sure to briefly describe the largest barriers that could derail your concept or timeline for implementation and your plan to proactively mitigate such barriers. In addition, the narrative should list the stakeholders that will be engaged during that stage of the project and describe the communication that occurred as the application was developed.

Describe the ongoing communication plan with the stakeholders as the project is implemented. (Stakeholders can include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational personnel in the affected entities.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 12/14/2013

* Narrative explanation

As soon as the project is funded, we can begin plans for the vegetables, herbs and fruits that will populate our garden. Our students can be involved in the planning, plotting and designing of the garden. We will work with our local landscape company to till the soil and prepare the beds. We will communicate with our students, families and staff with pictures and stories on our website and facebook, and we will write news releases to the media so they can cover the groundbreaking.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 5/15/14

* Narrative explanation

Mid-May is the best time to begin planting early crops in the Dayton area such as strawberries and peas. We will continue to plan and plant seedlings and seeds throughout the spring and summer and our students will be involved in planting, weeding, watering, mulching, protecting, staking, and harvesting as well as eating the fruits of their labor. All the while, they will be integrating the garden into their everyday core subjects and electives in order to earn credits to graduate. We will weigh each crop and designate some to eat, some to donate, and some to take home to family. Should we have weather that is not conducive to strong crops, this will still be a learning opportunity. Regardless of the success of the garden from year to year, our students will be able to learn from the exercise of creating it. We will continue to keep students and families apprised of the garden's success or failure on the web site and Facebook.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 10/15/14

* Narrative explanation

We will evaluate our weight/measure and success of the crops, but more importantly the success of our students in navigating their core subjects with a hands-on garden laboratory. At the end of the evaluation, we will publish the results of the first year's efforts. We will determine whether students are more engaged in learning, and whether they have been able to grasp previously difficult concepts with the help of the garden lab through improved standardized test results and improved graduation rate.

19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

With the help of first-year instruction and training, we expect our accountability coaches, teachers and students to be able to integrate the lessons of the garden into to core curriculum subjects and electives. We will have focus groups and surveys to determine our students/guardians' reaction to the garden and adjust accordingly as we become more informed as to what works for our particular population. We believe this will attract more students to our school and we will grow as a district.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

20. Describe the rationale, research or past success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

Research abouts in journal articles that describe proven benefits of gardens in the schools in nutrition awareness, environmental awareness, learning achievement, life skills, health and wellness, and community building and social connections. Some, but not all, of these articles are found in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Institute for Research on Poverty, American Journal of Public Health, HortTechnology, British Journal of Nutrition, and the Journal of Environmental Horticulture. Gardening has been shown in other schools to build confidence, cooperation and team-building in at-risk student populations by teaching life skills while alleviating stress and increasing effectiveness in dealing with major life challenges. One of this year's "Teachers of the Year" in People Magazine is a science teacher who started a school garden.

21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

Yes

No

22. If so, how?

This has been done in many school districts with great results. Any school with an available patch of land and initial financial support, along with volunteer support, would be able to replicate the garden concept. Since this is not a new idea, but one that has been proven successful in many schools across the country, we believe if it is taken on with adequate resources in the beginning, it can be a self-sustaining, important learning tool that improves the health of the students.

23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

We expect the gardening project to go on for many years, helping all of our students increase their nutritional knowledge and health, and serving as a laboratory for learning the many subjects that encompass gardening. We hope to instill our students a sense of belonging, a sense of value, skill, and ability that they will be able to use for a lifetime and pass on to future generations. The current population of students is nutrient deficient, and we believe that we need to do something on a grand scale to help these students get healthier so they can function and contribute. Many students may find their vocation by working in the garden, but others will gain knowledge from becoming engaged in a living laboratory that generates more excitement than the one-dimensional learning environment of the computer lab.

24. What are the specific benchmarks related to the fund goals identified in question 9 that the project aims to achieve in five years? Include any other anticipated outcomes of the project that you hope to achieve that may not be easily benchmarked.

In five years we plan to have at least 100 more students. This will be a draw to the school among nontraditional students who need the unique environment we can offer. We expect to have improved our four-year graduation rate to 97% and our credit-deficient students to lessen in percentage of total population. We plan to continue to have a functioning, living laboratory, with the knowledge handed down from one class to the next so that we are perpetuating the garden as an important part of the learning process.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

* Include the method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. (This section should include the types of data to be collected, the formative outputs and outcomes and the systems in place to track the program's progress).

* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

We will survey students and their parents/guardians using My Voice. We will monitor the improved OGT scores and graduation rates. We will measure student and staff satisfaction through internal surveys. We will record the amount of crops given to the Food Bank and our families. We will keep records of vegetables sold at our green stand to fund the following year's crops. We will make adjustments to the program based on comments and suggestions from students, families and staff. We will invite comments and suggestions from the community.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter "I Accept" and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today's date.

I Accept. Molly Bordonaro, Grants Coordinator Fairborn Digital Academy 10/25/13