



Toms River Field of Dreams

Community Garden
Expansion

rwjbhfieldofdreams.com

Who We Are

Toms River Field of Dreams (TRFOD) is the only truly inclusive and accessible complex for those of any age and ability in the country, set on 3.1 acres of property in Ocean County. It is our mission to promote but more importantly redefine the word INCLUSION.

The Program

This grant request is to expand the garden by adding an additional 20 accessible garden beds and an additional hydroponic greenhouse. The grant would also provide the funds for the soil, seeds, irrigation system, and fund an additional full time special needs staff position to manage the greenhouse during the growing season. This will allow us to fully implement phase four of the garden. The expansion of the garden will allow us to finally offer meaningful volunteer opportunities to special needs individuals and partner organizations on the long waiting list. In year two of the project, we will be able to open our own farmer's market giving our participants more opportunities to gain valuable life and work skills.

With the expansion of the community garden, TRFOD will be able to expand its community partnerships and those served through this project will benefit, allowing for increased work opportunities, confidence building and social participation, which will lead to a better quality of life. Expansion of the Grow Space will not only promote increased participation for the target population at the complex but it will also promote a sense of satisfaction and independence in the ability to work inclusively.

Alignment with Impact's Funding Priorities

The garden expansion and construction of an additional hydroponic greenhouse serves not just the TRFOD community but multiple underserved populations. Adults with disabilities, who have aged out of school programs, come to TRFOD through partner organizations in need of both volunteer and employment opportunities. The increased capacity of the garden and an additional greenhouse will expand the number of individuals that can participate. It will also dramatically increase the amount of fresh produce being distributed through partner pantries and clients of nonprofit partners who garden on site. It addresses unmet needs by providing meaningful daytime activities to special needs adults that educate and promote health, independence and belonging while increasing access to fresh produce for community members in need. The impact is immediate and measurable: over 3000 pounds of produce this year for neighbors in need and a deeper sense of purpose for participants and their families.