

Title: In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

"Nuevas Raíces - New Roots" Growing Community

Narrative: 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A. Group

Neighbors' Consejo seeks a partnership with individuals / groups interested in or with knowledge of Community gardening. Neighbors' Consejo, a community-based social service agency specializing in issues of mental health and addiction, has an intensive inpatient and transitional program for, mostly, homeless Spanish-speaking males. We ~~offer~~ the only such program in the DC Metropolitan area.

B. Project

Neighbors' Clients are, most often, originally from rural areas where agriculture is prevalent. It is ~~stated~~ that the addictions ^(cocaine) many of these clients fall prey to profoundly affects their ability to feel pleasure. I believe that growing one's food can be a treatment modality for this population as it reinforces strong cultural ties to land / the Earth, and rewards one's efforts in unexpected ways. While food gardening requires much effort and patience, the power of watching one's efforts grow into tasty, nutritious food is undeniable. We would like for these residential clients to have access to a community garden in walking distance of our agency. We would like to provide them with the necessary seeds and equipment, as well as the expertise and assistance of neighborhood volunteer gardeners.

C. Benefits

Gardening could assist our homeless, residential clients in their treatments for mental health & substance abuse by providing a strenuous, healthy, beautifying and nourishing activity. They could supplement their diet with fruits and vegetables. They could learn cooperation, patience and teamwork working with each other and with volunteers. This will help them establish roots upon leaving our program.

D. Leverage

There are many organizations who could recommend us volunteers with such gardening expertise. This is the perfect preparatory period for spring. It appears that the Pierce Park garden has been fallow for at least a year (if I am not mistaken).