

# Grace Grows Inc. Proposal

*Pricing is sealed*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Company

Grace Grows Inc.

Email

gracegardenproject@gmail.com

Contact

Abigail Perret-Gentil

Address

10710 NW 215th Lane Rd  
Micanopy, FL 32667

Phone

(352) 389-1684

Website

[www.gracegrowsgnv.com](http://www.gracegrowsgnv.com)

Submission Date

Jun 16, 2023 3:05 PM

## ADDENDA CONFIRMATION

Addendum #1

*Confirmed Jun 16, 2023 3:02 PM by Abigail Perret-Gentil*

Addendum #2

*Confirmed Jun 16, 2023 3:02 PM by Abigail Perret-Gentil*

Addendum #3

*Confirmed Jun 23, 2023 10:07 AM by Abigail Perret-Gentil*

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**1. Provide your Employer Identification Number (EIN)\***

Pass  Fail

Do not include dashes

*Maximum response length: 9 characters*

834573296

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**2. Provide physical address in Alachua County\***

Pass  Fail

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**3. Provide a mailing address\***

Pass  Fail

Maximum response length: 200 characters

10710 NW 215th Lane Road Micanopy, FL 32667

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**4. Does your agency have a 501(c)(3) status?\***

Pass  Fail

If yes, provide your certification in the question below, Failure to provide required documentation may deem your proposal non-responsive.

Yes

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**5. Upload your agency's IRS 501(c)(3) designation\***

Pass  Fail

 501c3page1\_(1).jpeg

**6. Responsible Agent Designation\***

Pass  Fail

The Consultant shall designate a responsible agent and alternate as necessary, for all dealings, communications, or notices or contracts between the County and the Consultant by completing and returning this Responsible Agent Form. Any notice or communication to or from the responsible agent shall be deemed to be a communication to the Consultant.

RESPONSIBLE AGENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE RESPONSIBLE AGENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSIBLE AGENT: Abigail Perret-Gentil

ADDRESS: 10710 NW 215th Lane Road

PHONE NO.: 806-317-2121

EMAIL ADDRESS: gracegardenproject@gmail.com

ALTERNATE RESPONSIBLE AGENT: Helen Strain

ADDRESS: 1621 NE 17th Pl. Gainesville FL 32609

PHONE NO: 352-213-4428

EMAIL ADDRESS: helen.strain@gmail.com

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**7. Project Name:\***

Pass  Fail

Grace Grows Garden Improvement to Increase Food and Therapeutic Program Access for People Experiencing Homelessness

**8. Amount of funds being requested\***

Pass  Fail

Maximum of \$50,000

*Maximum response length: 7 characters*

23551

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**9. Does your proposed project benefit residents of Alachua County living at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level?\***

Yes

Pass  Fail

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**10. Does your proposed project fit into one of the BoCC's approved funding category?\***

Pass  Fail

Adequate Food

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**11. Has your agency been operational, providing proposed program service(s) in the funding category at least one full year prior to the date of application?\***

Yes

Pass  Fail

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**12. Please describe the proposed project, and quantify the anticipated benefits to residents of Alachua County living at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level:\***

*Maximum response length: 2500 characters*

Pass  Fail

In 2017, Grace Grows (GG) conducted a study in collaboration with the UF Department of Community Health and Family Medicine to assess the nutritional, physical, and mental health of 300 sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in Alachua County. For GG, the primary aim of the study was to evaluate the need for implementing a community garden along with educational interventions to enhance health behaviors among this group. Study results confirmed previous research on the health risks of homelessness, particularly regarding weight and poor nutrition. According to the study, being overweight, mental illness, and access to healthy food were reported to be the top three most impactful personal health issues. Survey data affirmed that translating these results into an effective community garden intervention would be well-received and may address some of the power inequities and the marginalization of these individuals while simultaneously improving healthy behaviors and decreasing chronic disease risk for people experiencing homelessness.

Grace Grows offers residents sheltered at Grace Marketplace therapeutic gardening and horticultural vocational training programs. The individuals served by GG are among the most vulnerable population in our community, living well below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Since 2018, 200 people at Grace Marketplace have participated in the programs offered by GG and have learned to grow food in the half-acre teaching garden, growing their own gardens and producing 1,500 pounds of produce a year for themselves and the shelter kitchen. Until recently GG received some of the materials needed for the garden from Working Food who has been a collaborator and supporter since 2015. However, because Working Food no longer has that funding source GG has had to source those materials independently or go without. In order to conduct the Grace Grows Horticultural Therapy Program and Grace Grows Garden program better, GG requires a small number of infrastructural improvements that include the ability to make the garden accessible to people with varying mobility, rebuild old raised garden beds, material inputs for farming like compost and mulch and a truck to transport farm materials. This would allow GG to grow 33 percent more food to supply homeless gardeners as well as include three times as many people with disabilities in our therapeutic program that can benefit physical and mental health.

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**13. Please describe how your project will enhance effectiveness and/or efficiency of your agency's service delivery:\***

Maximum response length: 2500 characters

Pass  Fail

The funds requested in this proposal will enable Grace Grows to make enhancements to our garden's infrastructure that improve environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and ADA accessibility. We aim to replace the 22 wooden raised beds that currently exist in the Grace Grows Garden and are in use by people who are experiencing homelessness. Due to the natural breaking down of wood, the garden beds have needed to be replaced every two years, which has been costly for our small nonprofit. By rebuilding the beds with a durable material that will likely last over 10 years, we can improve our cost efficiency and improve the gardener's experience because they will no longer need to deal with beds that are deteriorating. We will also be able to construct four beds to be ADA accessible by elevating them off the ground, thereby giving access to people who have physical disabilities that hinder them from bending down and/or cause them to use a wheelchair. Considering that about 43 percent of people who experience homelessness have a physical disability, compared to 17 percent of housed people, improving inclusivity by giving people who have physical disabilities access to our horticultural therapy programs is a goal for GG. We will also increase accessibility to the garden space in general by installing a concrete path to the garden.

The cost and materials savings from rebuilding the garden beds using more durable materials will have a positive environmental impact, as will improving water efficiency by installing a timer-based irrigation system. Because we are serving a vulnerable population of people who are more likely to experience states of crisis that require extended absences from the garden, it will improve the garden's efficiency to water each bed on a regular schedule via automatic, timer-based irrigation.

Lastly, Grace Grows has a need to transport soil, produce, farm equipment, and plant donations but currently has no vehicle to do so. A used farm truck would help us to operate the garden and programming more effectively. A truck can also allow garden produce to be transported to the homes of newly-housed garden members, and/or help transport building materials so home gardens of their own can be built.

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**14. List all the budget items for which grant funds will be used and the dollar amount anticipated for each:\***

Pass  Fail

If your budget has more than five line items, you have the option to download and fill the SPACE Budget Template provided, and upload in the next question.

Maximum response length: 2500 characters

Please see the attached line item budget included in this submission. Note that Grace Grows will cover approximately \$8,000 in regular garden operational expenses from donors, and most of the labor for the project will be conducted by Grace Grows volunteers and University of Florida service organizations, including our interns from the University of Florida Horticultural Therapy program.

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**15. Upload SPACE Budget Template**

Pass  Fail

 [SPACEProjectBudgetGraceGrows.pdf](#)

**16. Describe the timeline and anticipated milestone dates for the project:\***

Pass  Fail

Maximum response length: 2500 characters

Grace Grows intends on completing this project within 8 months of being awarded, from, October 1, 2023, to June 1, 2024. The majority of the work - the new garden bed installation - will occur in the Fall of 2023 and Spring of 2024 because most of our outside volunteers are college students and this is when they engage the most. The kits that we propose to purchase and use for the more durable raised garden beds are do-it-yourself style kits that GG can train volunteers to assist with putting together after the volunteers assist with removing the existing lumber being used for

the garden beds. Once the new garden beds are installed, a third-party contractor would be hired to assist with the installation of an irrigation system, including an additional hose bib located closer to the garden than that which is currently being used.

The construction of the concrete path and accessible garden beds could begin immediately in November 2023 and will only take about a month to complete with the support of horticultural therapy interns from the University of Florida. The purchase of the truck, compost, and mulch would take place in the Month of October 2023.

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**17. Describe measurable outcomes for the project:\***

Pass  Fail

*Maximum response length: 2500 characters*

Grace Grows will measure the success of the project in the following ways.

- The completion of construction of the accessible garden beds and accessible pathway by December 1st, 2023
- The purchase of a new farm truck, compost, and mulch, by November 1st, 2023
- Installation of 20 new long-lasting garden beds by June 1st, 2024.
- Installation of irrigation system in the garden by June 1st, 2024.
- A 500 percent increase in garden usage for people who have mobility limitations
- The ability to add two additional clients to the horticultural therapy program
- Increase of healthy produce that goes to the shelter kitchen and guests by 500 lbs. as a result of proper agricultural inputs like mulch and soil.

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**18. Upload any supplemental documentation that is relevant to your project.**

*No response submitted*

**19. Acknowledge that you have reviewed all Addendum(s) issued with this solicitation.\***

Pass  Fail

Confirmed

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**20. Conflict of Interest\***

Pass  Fail

The bidder certifies that to the best of his knowledge or belief, no elected/appointed official or employee of the County is financially interested, directly or indirectly, in the purchase of the goods or services specified on this order. ( Select yes, if there is no conflict of interest)

Confirmed

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

**21. Drug Free Workplace\***

Pass  Fail

In accordance with §287.087, Florida Statute

Do you certify that you meet the following:

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.
2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under bid a copy of the statement specified in subsection (1).

4. In the statement specified in subsection (1), notify the employees that, as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under bid, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of Chapter 1893 or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state, for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.

5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.

6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this section.

As the person authorized to sign the statement, I certify that this firm complies fully with the above requirements.

Yes

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

## 22. Corporate Resolution Granting Signature\*

Pass  Fail

The response must be submitted by an officer of the business who is legally authorized to enter into a contractual relationship in the name of the bidder. An authorized representative who is not an officer may sign the proposal, but must attach or upon request provide a corporate resolution granting authorization to the representative to execute on behalf of the business. Are you authorized to submit this RFA?

Confirmed

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**23. By submitting this application, we acknowledge that we are aware that the information contained in this funding application is public record. We further certify that this Request for Funding is consistent with our organization's mission, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and that this application for funding was authorized by the agency's Board of Directors.\***

Confirmed

Pass  Fail

**Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.