CITY OF BENICIA
BENICIA HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
FY 2013-2015 GRANT APPLICATION
TITLE PAGE

PART A

1. **Project/Program Name:**
2. **Amount of Funding Request: Annual: $ 0** **Grant period (2 years): $**
3. **Organization Submitting Proposal:**

Organization Data:

Name: Benicia Community Gardens, Inc
Address: 333 East K Street
Benicia 94510
Phone: 707-745-9094
Fax: --
Fed. ID #: 05-0589694

Contact Person:

Name: Marilyn Bardet
Title: BCG Board Chair
Phone: 707-745-9094
Email: mjbardet@comcast.net
Fax: --

4. **Year organization legally established: 2003** **State: CA**

5. **Project or Program Category** (check applicable categories and subcategories):

Safety Net X	**Health & Wellbeing X**	**Other X**
Rent	Counseling	Affordable Housing
Food X	Suicide Prevention	Job Skills X
Utilities	Domestic Violence	Literacy
Transportation	Child Abuse Prevention	Parenting
Childcare	Substance Abuse	**Basic Social & Life Skills X**
	Mental Health **& Physical Health X**	

6. **Serving clients** (check all that apply):

Children Under 5 X	Youth (5-18) X	Adults (19 to 59) X	Seniors Over 60 X	Family Unit X
Low-Income X	Disabled X			

7. **Anticipated Number of Unduplicated Benicia Residents to be Served:** approx. 250+

ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that all information contained in this application and any attachments is true and accurate.

NO CITY EMPLOYEE SHALL BE A SIGNATORY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION REQUESTING FUNDS FROM THE BENICIA HUMAN SERVICES BOARD.

Authorizing Signature — Board Chair (Title) — Jan 25 2013 (Date)

Typed name: Marilyn J. Bardet

CITY OF BENICIA
BENICIA HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
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Part B – BUDGET INFORMATION

PROJECT EXPENSES		TOTAL PROJECT COST (A)		AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST (B)		APPLICANT'S COST (C)
DIRECT COSTS						
Personnel (Direct[1])	$		$		$	
Benefits (Direct[1])						
Personnel (**Support[1]**)		1120		1120		
Benefits (Direct[1])						
Contract Services						
Two Garden Coordinators						
Project Supplies - Soil and Compost		500				500
Project Equipment hardware, tools,		200				200
Transportation (e.g. gas costs, rental)						
Other Direct Costs - printed materials						
Avant Garden rent		240				240
SUBTOTAL		**2060**		**1120**		**940**
INDIRECT COSTS						
(Administrative) Personnel		3000		3000		
Benefits		300		300		
Space Rental - property lease, First & East D St.Avant Garden						
utilities - water		1900				1900
Telephone						
Office Supplies - publicity, materials		500				500
Transportation (e.g. gas costs, rental)						
Other Indirect Costs - Insurance Avant Garden		1000				1000
tax accounting		500				500
SUBTOTAL		**7200**		**3300**		**3900**
TOTAL COSTS	$	**9260**	$	**4420**	$	**4840**

8. Provide a budget for the project. (Expenses listed in this document should be consistent with the Project Description.) This budget is only for the project utilizing grant monies.
Column A = Total cost of the proposed project.
Column B = Amount you are requesting in this grant application.
Column C = The difference between Column A and Column B, or the costs of the project that are not included in this grant request, if any.

Part B – BUDGET INFORMATION – (continued)

9. **APPLICANT SOURCES: Provide sources of other funds for the project. Total amount should correspond with Total C (previous page). Do not include your entire budget here (it should be attached).**

Applicant Sources – Other Funding (be specific)		Amount or Value		Indicate if Cash or In-kind
gardeners fees	$	3220		cash
existing funds		1620		cash
TOTAL	$	4840		

10. **List any prior City of Benicia grants or loans awarded to your organization and the number of Benicia residents served with the funds.**

Fiscal Year	Program		Amount		Benicians Served
2011-12	consulting gardener	$	$4,000		
2010-11	consulting gardener	$	$4,800		
2009-10	consulting gardener		$4,800		
2008-09	consulting gardener		$4,800		
2007-08	consulting gardener		$4,800		
2006-07	consulting gardener		$1,600		
2005-06	consulting gardener		$1,600		
2004-05					
2003-04					
TOTALS		$	0		0

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Part C - PROJECT / ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION (Please limit Part C to 5 pages.)

11. Brief Project Summary (Two to three sentences describing the grant proposal):

The Project for which BCG's board is requesting a modest grant again is to support the leadership required to design, guide and expand upon educational and practical initiatives and activities that will ultimately contribute to the creation over time of an essential, local, community-wide food web system that can produce reliable, sustainably grown harvests – a source of a stable, healthful fresh food supply that would contribute to local food security. Such innovative leadership requires passionate vision, calm, flexible strategic thinking and practical organizational management skills. The BCG board requests financial support for a very part time executive director position for BCG's short and long range program development, as well as for modest compensation for specific weekly and monthly administrative tasks for membership "housekeeping" of records for our BCG database, to be accomplished by two volunteer garden coordinators, one for Swenson Garden and one for Avant Garden. BCG gardeners and other volunteers, and, in collaboration with other organizations, BCG will continue, through a variety of means, to provide opportunities that facilitate people of all ages and abilities to gain knowledge and know-how about methods for sustainably growing healthful food crops in an urban setting, as well as, create for Benicia residents greater access to healthful, sustainably produced essential foods from regional organic farms and ranches. As an essential part of our educational program, BCG will continue to maintain and improve our two model community gardens, Swenson Garden and Avant Garden, where ecological principles are learned through hands on experience and invaluable community benefits accrue from people working together sharing know-how and common purpose: because through such connective activities, with BCG encouragement, we believe that an evolving, beehive-like, convivial network composed of a growing number of experienced food-producing gardeners in Benicia will become a vital, informed human resource contributive to ensuring local food security for the future – a vision for a healthy, resilient community captured in BCG's mission statement [See #12].

12. Describe organization's general purpose and activities:

Benicia Community Gardens' educational programs – projects, initiatives, special activities and events, many on-going and others newly envisioned for implementation within the next two years – are central to our mission and purpose and constitute our organizations' basic work, which in the aggregate is envisioned to support the development of a community-based, community-wide food web system that could produce reliable, sustainably grown year-round harvests – a stable, locally-grown fresh food supply system for residents that would incorporate distribution and connection to regional organic farms and ranches for procuring other basic staple foods (grains, legumes, dairy, poultry, meats) and to nearest sources of fresh fish. Resulting from our board's strategic planning sessions and a full day board retreat in 2012, successful strides were made to strengthen BCG's organizational structure. We revised and updated BCG Bylaws especially with regard to IRS requirements [See #13], established comprehensive "BCG Policies & Regulations", created an official BCG Application and updated our Gardener's Agreement. Our revised Mission Statement newly reflects an over-arching long-range goal expressive of our desire that future generations living here will inherit a sustainable, local food web system that provides local food security. *"The mission of Benicia Community Gardens is to support local food security — by helping local citizens establish and care for gardens throughout the city that provide fresh food, fellowship and discovery, and also by increasing citizens' access to sustainable, regional sources of wholesome food — thereby strengthening community resilience."*

BCG's purpose is primarily educational, at once practical and visionary: to provide first-hand opportunity at our two community gardens for people of all ages, levels of experience and abilities to learn in a friendly social context about sustainable, organic gardening skills and suitable urban farming methods that produce healthy crops and build and maintain nutrient-rich soils. Benefits of community gardening include enjoying purposeful outdoor exercise, forging new civic friendships, and discovering the rewards of raising

harvests that can supply a whole family, be shared with friends and neighbors or be donated to the needy among us. BCG's gardens are central to our educational mission. They demonstrate that community gardening is a positive use of available, undeveloped land within city limits. Community gardening encourages healthful lifestyles and fosters development of a robust social network of productive food gardeners capable of cultivating edible gardens throughout the city that would help ensure local food security.

During strategic planning sessions, the board recognized the subject of local food security as a critical topic of concern related to public health and safety. It is not a new topic: certainly the victory gardening movement that spread across the country during the Depression and WWII helped feed millions of families and strengthened communities' resilience under conditions of economic depravation and rationing. We also recognize that neither the Benicia General Plan or Climate Action Plan ["CAP"] directly addresses the subject of food security or recognizes it as a need. Only one reference to gardens exists in the CAP, under Strategy EO-1.12 [CAP, page 24], which suggests that "theme-based demonstration gardens", thus including edible gardens, "be established throughout the city." It would seem wise to dare imagine possible "worst case" constraints on our food supply in the context of predictions for a warming climate, rising seas and other possible challenges that lie ahead of us and our children. From a long-range vision, a flexibly evolving blueprint can be born with reasonable step-by-step actions recommended, which, if taken, would lead gradually to the materialization of the goal of attaining local food security, with obvious performance measures, the accounting of bushels of wholesome fresh food season to season. This would seem a necessity for our city, for the sake of community health and resilience, considering what is known about already devastating environmental effects of industrial agriculture, with its efficient systems of overnight food delivery that are expected each day to fill supermarkets and supply fast food kitchens. That reality has becomes deeply unsettling, when we see live videos of exploding oil platforms and gushing pipes drilled miles down into a sea's bed. This is the no longer hidden costs of "normal life." Yet we wear blinders against seeing. What we cling to today will not be supportable without continued availability of *cheap* energy, including for the natural gas-derived ammonia for commercial fertilizers that industrial agriculture depends on, (with deadly consequences for soils, rivers, river deltas and seas).

Contrarily, it's actually possible to imagine an "alternative new normal,"since glimpses of such conditions can be seen in large cities like Detroit that are faced with extreme challenges of devastated, foreclosed and abandoned neighborhoods. There, in the midst of bleak, pot-hole ridden streets and ravaged homes, food gardens and mini farms are springing up, tended by old neighbors and once jobless, now enterprising young people who are reclaiming emptied lots and foul yards using sustainable methods for growing healthy, abundant food crops. It's clear by this example that an alternative vision can be made manifest by necessity, or by foresight and design, depending on local circumstances. Even under grim conditions of inner city neighborhoods, a network of local gardeners could produce surplus food for city-wide distribution through a community-owned system of small co-ops, and also, with help, make direct connections with small, regional organic farms and ranches for procuring fresh produce and other essential staple commodities for healthy diets (grains, dairy, poultry, meats). To have this materialize in Benicia would truly represent the power of community.

We believe that BCG's two community gardens represent a promising, model "first step" toward realizing the long-range alternative vision for building a city-wide, sustainable and productive food web for food security. With experts to guide them, neighbors and friends could establish edible "victory" gardens, where feasible, throughout town in public city parks and other undeveloped land in areas zoned commercial, quasi-public or mixed use. Such gardens – mini urban farms – could become a vital, attractive, integral part of our city, (whose hilly outer limit once hosted dairy farms and now for other reasons hosts goats that chew down tall grasses but aren't probably milked, at least not within our city limits yet. (How's that for untapped economic development potential never herd about!). BCG's educational programs and two model gardens point toward new thinking about what it will take to maintain a healthy, flourishing, vibrant community in the not-too-distant future. Members of the BCG board are prepared to discuss with the City Council, the

Community Sustainability Commission, the Planning Commission and Human Services Board about such visionary ideas to support the eventual creation of a feasible plan to develop a community food web to ensure local food security.

BCG ACTIVITIES:

BCG continues to maintain and improve its two community gardens: **Swenson Garden**, established in 2000, (renamed in 2011 in honor of the late Dr. Ed Swenson), located on property owned by Heritage Presbyterian Church at the intersection of East 2nd Street and Military East, has 18 raised beds – 14 large beds 3.5' x 15.5', and 4 smaller, taller square beds, 3' x 3', convenient for seniors' use); and **Avant Garden**, a "movable garden project" established in October, 2010, located on vacant land at First & D Streets leased to BCG by Estey Real Estate on behalf of private owners. Routine, seasonal garden maintenance of border beds, common herb gardens and paths is accomplished voluntarily by board members, BCG gardeners and volunteer BCG friends participate in "work party" days, (weeding paths and borders, planting, pruning, soil preparation, mulching and composting). BCG gardeners are asked to annually donate a minimum of eight hours of volunteer time to help with general garden maintenance.

By spring of 2013, BCG will have doubled its capacity to accommodate more gardeners. Initially, in Oct-Nov., 2010, Avant Garden was established by efforts of board members who built (only) seven large raised beds made of strawbales, each bed approx 4'x19' in dimension. Public interest in our venture was immediate, and very soon we had increased demand for beds: some folks said they had no dirt where they lived in which to cultivate a garden; some lived in apartments; one couple who finally was assigned a bed lives on a boat in the marina. It became necessary in early 2011 to create an official BCG waiting list for beds. The board's maintenance committee was put in charge of reconfiguring the garden's layout, with a plan to build more beds, this time to be framed up in donated recycled lumber, each bed 4' x 8' in dimension.This spring, three more beds of equal size will be constructed from an original strawbale bed, for a total of 40 beds at Avant, so that Swenson and Avant gardens will have a combined total of 58 beds, thus accommodating 58 gardeners with assigned beds, (not including spouses, children or other family members and friends participating).

BCG's seasonally scheduled educational workshops, led by gardening experts, will continue to be held at both gardens. Subjects covered include: soil preparation for maintenance of heathy soil structures, worm composting, sheet mulching, planting and transplanting methods, what and when to plant according to seasonal conditions and our geographical area, tool care, pruning techniques, ecologically safe pest and disease management, and water-wise irrigation methods. Skills taught at each workshop encompass a range of proven techniques. Since 2011, three BCG gardeners have pursued classes and certification in Solano's Master Gardeners program.

In 2013, we plan to initiate "Garden Talks" at Avant Garden, from March to October on chosen Thursdays each month, to be held during Farmer's Market time. The talks, meant to be brief, are to be given by a certified Master Gardener or other expert gardener who will specifically address common questions regarding a particular species of food crops (for example, strawberries: how and where to plant them, their favored growing conditions, how to manage diseases and pests, their nutritional requirements, seasonal stresses, etc). The topics for talks, the schedule and other organizational considerations will be decided by BCG volunteer garden coordinators at Avant and Swenson gardens.

In late spring, 2012, BCG initiated "BCG Shares" an initiative begun for the purpose of donating surplus harvests to local organizations serving needy residents and families. A large raised bed was constructed and designated to be the "community bed", which continues to be tended and sustainably harvested on a weekly year-round basis by a volunteer gardener. We are now devoting a second large bed for this purpose, to increase our capacity to produce food for donation. Gardeners are also encouraged to donate surplus veggies harvested from their individual beds. To date, recipients of "BCG Shares" food donations are the Community

Action Council, Benicia Senior Center, and St. Paul's Church (for its free, public Wednesday dinners program).

In 2013, BCG will continue to establish contacts with regional organic farms and also ranches, to further develop opportunities for local families to obtain seasonal farm-fresh organic produce year round, such as provided by a Community Supported Agriculture ["CSA"] program that BCG initiated and sponsored in Jan., 2012, with Terra Firma Farm in Winters, CA. With minimal advertisement, over 30 people originally signed up as direct subscribers to the program – a promising start that suggests that an expansion of the concept would be well received. Thus, in 2013, BCG will begin developing plans for an "organic foods access program" (no official name for the endeavor has been chosen yet) to provide opportunity for Benicia residents to form direct connections and relationships with regional farms and ranches for procurement of sustainably raised grains, dairy, poultry and meats for healthy diets. Tours of farms by individuals or groups may be arranged that would help people learn more about how small scale farms actually operate. BCG will research to find possible regional partners (for example, McCormick Ranch in Solano County, and Marin Sun Farms, both raising grass-fed livestock).

As part of BCG's educational efforts in 2013 - 2015, BCG will continue to help promote and sponsor events, workshops and activities with other local and regional organizations and civic bodies, to address the social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainability.

In 2011- 2012, BCG board members and gardeners

- joined with the Benicia Tree Foundation to support Arbor Day festivities and tree planting projects;
- participated in the semi-annual plant sale conducted by the local Jepson Chapter of the Native Plant Society on the perimeter of Swenson Garden and at City Park;
- hosted Solano County Master Gardeners workshops held at both Swenson and Avant gardens;
- volunteered at Mary Farmer and Robert Semple school gardens; [see below]
- participated in City of Benicia special events honoring Earth Day and Climate Action Day;
- supported Benicia Main Street's Farmer's Market, hosting "summer social hours" at Avant Garden for BCG gardeners and civic friends and acquaintances every Thursday during Farmer's Market hours;
- supported downtown merchants and First Street's economic vitality, participating in the merchants' annual two-day spring event, "Benicia In Boom" that draws people downtown;
- collaborated with Arts Benicia on Sept. 8th, 2012, at Avant Garden, hosting a creative "AB Family Day" event for children and parents called "Art in the Garden," [see below]
- hosted composting workshops sponsored and organized by Allied Waste and Valcore, at Avant Garden.
- participated in organizational meetings of Work Group I of the Community Sustainability Commission to plan for CSC-sponsored lecture series in 2011 on the topic of sustainability and attended the lecture series, helping to set up tables in Heritage Presbyterian's sanctuary, and participating in small discussion "cafes" to brainstorm following the lectures.

BCG's volunteer efforts with Benicia elementary schools will continue: For the past four years, several BCG volunteers have worked weekly with local Master Gardeners at Mary Farmer Elementary School, helping to keep the school garden open at noontime several days a week for children's gardening activities. Outreach to Robert Semple Elementary was made in 2011, when BCG donated soil and volunteer labor to help rehab existing courtyard landscaping to accommodate an edible garden and herb garden; but to our knowledge, a robust gardening program has yet to be developed by the school. BCG volunteers, working with Master Gardeners, will try to engage potential parent volunteers to help activate Semple's gardening program.

Collaboration with Arts Benicia for promoting cultural and aesthetic connections to BCG gardens: The special "AB Family Day" event held at Avant Garden on Sept. 8th, 2012, engaged young children to paint "plein air", to quietly observe the garden's liveliness of color, textures and forms, and to make paper-plate "flags," to "hang in the wind in the garden." Through such activities, which require imaginative seeing and concentration, kids take in and absorb the beauty of a cultivated garden world where they can make the connection between what vegetables they eat and how they grow or enjoy watching an insect's movement, or

a romp in a heap of compost – old fashioned enjoyments of being alive to a garden's wonder. Going forward, BCG will continue to work with Arts Benicia to plan other similar activities and learning experiences at Avant and Swenson gardens for children of all ages and adults.

Further collaboration with the Community Sustainability Commission is also envisioned: BCG board members also serve on the CSC and help provide leadership to organize forums addressing aspects of sustainability. In 2013, BCG board members will address the problems of achieving local food security. The safety of the world-wide food web system is in jeopardy, and the meaning of food security for communities hasn't been defined for Benicia. There is also a growing concern for human health as related to poor eating habits and poor choice in diet. These are topics that can be suitably raised for public discussion through forums and public film series, such as the series called "What's For Dinner?" which was recently organized by BCG board members and screened at the Benicia Public Library in Sept - Oct, 2012. Expenses for screening rights were paid by the CSC, along with costs of DVDs of several films purchased for the library's collection. Following each film, BCG's board members and CSC's chairperson took turns leading lively group discussions. Following up on the film series' themes, special "pot luck" dinners for BCG members and interested individuals who had attended the film series have been hosted and are continuing in 2013. A brief presentation is given about each particular basic staple or category of food (e.g., grains, rice, legumes, fish) featured in that evening's various prepared dishes. Facts are presented relating to the historical record of a food group's cultivation and uses and contribution to the world's regional cuisines, and finally, the fate of food crops transformed by industrial agriculture and traded on the commodities futures market in our age of globalized industrial agriculture. We are learning that informal gatherings in people's homes, held "salon style" or "cafe style," lend better opportunity for participation, discussion, visualization, associative thinking and brainstorming.

13. List all financial liabilities or pending legal action:

BCG has no pending legal action or liability, or unpaid bills – we are only in the limbo of waiting to hear back from the IRS for official confirmation that our 501(c)3 non-profit status has been reinstated, retroactive to the date it was automatically revoked in February, 2012, when the revocation was still unbeknownst to me as BCG Board Chair and other board members. This shocking circumstance, which was inadvertently discovered by me in early March, was the result of our ignorance, misunderstanding and confusion over a new IRS ruling that was promulgated in 2007, requiring small non-profits with budgets under $50,000 to file annual e-postcard (short tax reports) that had, until then, never been required to be submitted. We were stunned to learn what was required for reinstatement of our status, and quickly reported the problem to our City Attorney, both in writing and in conversation in her office. I then notified the mayor and also wrote to the HSB on the matter, since we assumed the process of reapplying with the tediously long Form 1023, would affect our ability to receive grant payments for the rest of the 2011 - 2013 cycle. We immediately sought advice from all quarters and were given pretty confident hopes that we would regain our status if we immediately began the process for reinstatement. To that end, we assumed the arduous task of completing Form 1023 with its many required attachments, including budgets and financials going back to 2008, about which I, as board chair, chose to hire at my personal expense a professional accountant to help ensure we'd made no mistakes. We mailed off our completed application to the IRS on May 25, 2011, and we're still now waiting a final review of our application. We had appealed for an expedited review process for retroactive reinstatement of our status, since HSB grant funding payments for 2011-2013 were at stake, given that it was determined by the City that it was best to withhold any future HSB grant checks allocated for BCG, until such time when BCG would receive confirmation of our reinstated status.

We are now still awaiting approval from the IRS for reinstatement of our non-profit status, and until we are cleared of this problem, we are in a virtual limbo of uncertainty with regard to applying for grants. We felt the HSB and City of Benicia would be able to accept receiving a grant application/request from us, because you know us and have given us grants over consecutive funding cycles and obviously have demonstrated that as

board members you appreciate and care about what we're doing. Other grantors with whom we haven't any personal contact or history, might feel that our circumstances with the IRS and the timing of our application compromised and muddied any favorable judgment they might otherwise have held for our application and proposed project. Keeping this in mind, we appreciate this particular opportunity to submit another grant application to the HSB, trusting that our previous stable history might give you confidence to approve our request again. And, if we do receive your approval, we accept that those quarterly grant payments for BCG should be withheld in trust until we had officially gained confirmation from the IRS that our non-profit status had been reinstated.

14. Is your organization applying for other grants for fiscal years 2013-2015? If so, list the project, funding source(s), proposed budgets, and requested amount(s).

Since BCG is still awaiting approval from the IRS for reinstatement of our non-profit status, and until we are cleared of this problem, we are in a virtual limbo of uncertainty with regard to applying for grants. We felt the HSB and City of Benicia would be able to accept receiving a grant application/request from us, because you know us and have given us grants over consecutive funding cycles and obviously have demonstrated that as a board you appreciate and care about what we're doing. Other grantors with whom we haven't any personal contact or history, might feel that our circumstances with the IRS and the timing of our application compromised and muddied any favorable judgment they might otherwise have held for our application and proposed project.
Keeping this in mind, we appreciate this particular opportunity to submit another grant application to the HSB, trusting that our previous stable history might would find a way to consider our application for another cycle of modest funding, with the caveat that if we should be approved for a grant, those quarterly grant payments for BCG would be withheld in trust until we had officially gained confirmation from the IRS that our non-profit status had been reinstated.

In 2014, we will consider re-applying to Kaiser Permanente for a grant to support a pilot project called "Common Roots" designed to allow low-income families at Burgess Point in Benicia enjoy community gardening at the apartment complex and to benefit from increased access to healthy, freshly grown healthy food, some coming from surplus harvests from BGG's Swenson and Avant Gardens. [In Jan. 2012, BCG submitted an application for this project to be funded for 6 months at $10,000, but our request failed to be approved]. We would request $20,000 for one year, to cover infrastructure expenses and part time leadership for program coordination. BCG would find local volunteer leaders sensitive to cultural differences to give informal talks and presentations in interactive workshop-like sessions on topics of health, life-choices and personal happiness. Stipend compensation would be offered presenters and facilitators. Burgess Point neighbors would be invited to learn gardening skills and help create mini food gardens in raised beds placed in small landscaped areas near front doors. BCG volunteer gardeners would help create a social picnic area with picnic table and grill, and encourage women who are single heads of households with children to cook together and share potluck meals once a week. BCG volunteer coordinators for the project would work side by side with residents, to be part of the community, developing outdoor gardening activities with children. (we failed to be approved when we first applied in January 2012. the first time last year)this two-year funding cycle.

15. At what location will the proposed project take place and how long has the organization been at this location? BCG's activities take place predominantly at either Swenson Garden Avant Garden [see descriptions of locations and respective dates of each garden' creation in my response to

Part C - PROJECT / ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION (continued)

#12.] If being indoors is necessary, we have typically used the Heritage Presbyterian Church's social hall. We have also used the Dona Benicia Room at the library for the film series event BCG sponsored in 2012 in collaboration with the Community Sustainability Commission.

16. What are your proposed hours of operations for this project? Please indicate hours that actual services will be provided, and how this may or may not differ from the hours project staff will be available to respond to incoming calls, answer general questions, etc.?

The hours of operation of our educational programs, initiatives, activities and events vary, depending on what type of activity is being conducted. Regular public workshops offered seasonally outdoors are scheduled according to seasonal available light and expected weather, but we try to schedule late afternoon workshops on weekdays, and early morning workshops on Saturdays. Workshops generally are 2 - 3 hours, depending on how many topics are being covered, the number of demonstrations, etc.., and if practice by individuals is expected. Appointed volunteer garden coordinators for Swenson and Avant will be at their respective gardens for scheduled work days, and to accomplish specific tasks as needed. They will have email addresses and phone numbers to be able to contact gardeners if they notice an untended bed or one that needs watering. They will determine their own schedules and when they are there, provide friendly advice if needed to the gardeners present and welcome visitors.

17. Describe the project associated with this grant request. Include the goals to be achieved and the strategy that will be used to meet the goals. Be specific when discussing what will be achieved as a result of your program.

Please refer to the commentary and response to #12. The Project for this grant is the creation of a dedicated part-time leadership role/position for program development toward the long-range, comprehensive, visionary goal of attaining local food security, through a step-by-step approach to development of a community-wide food web system that can produce a reliable year-round food supply. Research and development of relationships in the world of the "local and slow food" movement, meeting farmers who practice sustainable methods of growing crops, interviewing ranchers and learning about their network of organic food with regional farms and otherare initially key to widening access to regional sources of fresh, sustainably raised foods and other staples.

In general, the measurement of progress toward the goal is not perfectly quantifiable, say, through counting numbers of bushels of fresh produce harvested in one week's time from all sources. Accounting for the amount of harvest and food waste could help gauge the attitude and respect of residents participating. The requirements for developing a sequential plan for increasing local food supply requires critical and constant public outreach, media support, recruitment of volunteers, research and database for admin records, large and small food gardens (community and residential), access to healthful food from regional farms and ranches, surplus storage and distribution systems, methods of barter and exchange, public outreach, recruitment of volunteers, data collection, media, advertising campaigns. Current component initiatives are described in #12. Our acting executive director, who is currently a board member, has worked voluntarily without compensation for one year, since fall 2011, and has been an inspired visionary with MBA skills to frame and distinguish BCG priorities in 2012 and as we are moving ahead now.

18. Why is this project necessary for the citizens of Benicia? How will recipients benefit from your services?

The answer to this question can be found in the responses to #11 and #12, which I dare not repeat here! We are the grassroots folks ready to build gardens to help secure a local healthful food supply and to help create a more resilient community. To our knowledge, there is no other civic group in town working toward this goal, which would be intrinsically valuable, even if only initially all the food was donated to feed the needy in town on a regular basis with healthy, fresh food.

19. **How will outreach be conducted?**

Outreach for near term initiatives and projects and for attaining long term goals will require different strategies, including use of varied approaches that will have to be elaborated over time customized to the array of existing projects, needs for volunteer recruitment strategy, etc-- I've run out of time to describe in any detail!

20. List the specific quantifiable goals of the project.
(Please state your goal in terms of number of individuals, families or groups served. For example, agency will provide X number of individuals counseling services per quarter.)

We think big and long-range, embracing the concept of building gardens all over town, as described in #12, thus reaching whole neighborhoods to offer the benefits of community gardens that produce year-round to supply food for families.

Discuss how your organization will collect, organize and disseminate this data.
The database and data currently collected on Gardener's Agreement forms and BCG Applications is only collected for purposes of keeping track of gardeners and assigned beds, people's contact information, preferred activities, etc.

21. Is this project an existing program or activity provided by your organization? Please explain.
The project to create a very modestly funded part-time executive leadership position is new. The amount of the grant request remains the same as in previous years, such that we can at least award the passion and proven dedication of Elena Karoulina who has brought professional management skills and vision to our board.

22. Identify similar programs in the community and how yours will differ.

There are no similar programs, save the Solano Master Gardeners program; however, that program does not build and maintain community gardens, although, Master Gardeners enjoy giving workshops in our BCG gardens.

23. Describe previous comparable projects or programs that your organization, has undertaken that demonstrate successful administration and implementation.

Please see #12.

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BENICIA HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
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24. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS: Verify and check off confirmation indicating that the following required items are attached to the original application.

Attachment Confirmation	Item No.	Item Description
( )	1.	IRS Letter of Tax Exempt Status
( )	2.	Organization's total budget for the current year
( )	3.	Copy of most recent audit or financial statement
( )	4.	Names and addresses of Board of Directors
( )	5.	List of paid principal staff and positions
( )	6.	Job descriptions for principal staff and personnel to be paid partially or in full with grant funding
( )	7.	Copy of resolution or board meeting minutes indicating organization's support of the project application.
( )	8.	If a partnership, then of letters of commitment from each organization indicating degree of participation and a budget showing each organization's financial responsibility are required.

Thank You!