Urban Garden Program

Children’s Garden in Residence
The Children’s Garden in Residence was established nearly 30 years ago to provide children with a meaningful opportunity to connect with nature in a science-rich gardening experience. In this program, 200 children ages 5-11 meet weekly for two hours over eight weeks of summer to plant and care for their own garden patches and learn about science and nutrition. Through this experience children increase their knowledge of horticultural and science concepts, along with gardening skills as well as gain awareness of how plants are interconnected with products from everyday life. This is reinforced with opportunities to prepare and eat fresh, nutritious snacks from the food that they have grown in their gardens. Garden sites as based at partner community-based organizations located in low-income neighborhood in North and South Minneapolis.

Urban Garden Youth Employment Program
The Arboretum's Urban Garden Youth Employment Program offers middle and high school youth facing some of the greatest barriers to employment, meaningful work experiences. Through this opportunity, up to 50 youth ages 12-19 are engaged for up to three days a week in garden-based entrepreneurial paid work experiences. Teams include:

- **CityFresh Veggies** team is designed for youth ages 12-14. They grow and sell fresh herbs and vegetables to local restaurant chefs.
- **CityFresh Garden Products Team** is designed for youth ages 15-16 and is a chance for emerging entrepreneurs to create and market a new garden-based product.
- **Growing for Good Minnesota** is designed for youth ages 15-18 and focuses on public gardening and community outreach.
- **Smart Snacks** is designed for youth ages 17-19 and focuses on learning about healthy food preparation, nutrition, and utilization of fresh garden produce.

Annual Support Needed for Urban Garden Program: $250,000