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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT FROM FLREDC & NYS DOL/WDI AWARDED TO
CCE MONROE
TRANSITIONAL JOBS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS FROM CHALLENGED NEIGHBORHOODS**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County (CCE Monroe) is pleased to announce that we were awarded \$95,655 to support one year of our Growing Relevant and Outstanding Work Skills (GROWS) transitional jobs program. Launched in May of 2022, the GROWS program targets young adults, many of whom have been negatively impacted by the surge in gun violence. The program utilizes our onsite educational farm - The South Lawn Project, located at our office. Participants are learning to grow produce that will be distributed to local food pantries. At the same time, they receive daily mentoring and connections to resources to help them build stability in their daily life, learn the soft-skills needed to be a successful employee and develop a resume. As each participant becomes work-ready, CCE Monroe staff will help connect them with job opportunities or additional school/training programs to help them progress on their path to self-sufficiency.

CCE Monroe staff will remain in contact with former participants after they exit our program to applaud their successes and to help them navigate any issues that may pop up. CCE Monroe partners with a number of non profit organizations for program participant referrals and to help connect the participants with needed services that CCE Monroe does not itself provide. Through this community approach, CCE Monroe and its partners help prevent our participants from falling through the cracks. Indeed, it takes the entire community to ensure each individual's success.

The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council (FLREDC) is the strategic economic advisory board for the greater Rochester, New York region that includes the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates. NYS Department of Labor's Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) was inaugurated in 2019 with a mission to invest \$175 million throughout New York State for innovative, creative, and regionally customized workforce development projects. Awards under this Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) support strategic regional efforts that meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, address long-term industry needs, improve regional talent pipelines, enhance flexibility and adaptability of local workforce entities, and expand workplace learning opportunities.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



Marci Muller (Program Director), Gianni Robles, Liban Jilane, Nika Colley (Farm Manager), Quinton McKnight, Nah'ziere Feasel, Brendan Tydings (GVRMA Administrator)



Quinton McKnight, Nah'ziere Feasel, Nika Colley (Farm Manager), Ja'vyon Ogden

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