

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Calypso Farm and Ecology Center****Federal Tax ID: 92-0169368****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Calypso Farm and Ecology Center - The Schoolyard Garden Initiative

State Funding Requested: \$25,000**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The Schoolyard Garden Initiative supports agricultural education through active school gardens. Funding would support current and new gardens.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$96,505
Funding Already Secured:	(\$59,500)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$25,000)
Project Deficit:	\$12,005

Funding Details:

Calypso has raised money from a sources such as sales of produce from gardens, PTA contriubutions, and other grants. Calypso will raise the remaining funds.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Calypso Farm and Ecology Center is making a capital project request for \$25,000 to support the development of the School Garden Initiative in Fairbanks, Alaska. The following budget breakdown is to support capital needs at each of six school gardens (Chinook Charter School, Woodriver Elementary, University Park Elementary, Pearl Creek Elementary, Randy Smith Middle School, and Hunter Elementary)

Five of the school gardens will need \$4,000 each and the newest school garden (Chinook Charter School) will need \$5000 for a total of \$25,000.

Capital needs for the five schools are broken down as follows:

Gardening Tools - \$400
 Building Supplies- \$1,000
 Irrigation Supplies- \$500
 Seeds and Starts- \$1,600
 Top Soil- \$500

Capital needs for Chinook Charter School are broken down as follows:

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$25,000
Approved**

3:17 PM 5/2/2012

2012 Legislature

TPS Report 58824v1

Gardening Tools -\$2,500
Irrigation Supplies -\$500
Farm Stand Canopy -\$500
Top Soil -\$1,500

Project Timeline:

FY 2013

See attached detailed timeline

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Calypso Farm and Ecology Center

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

The Schoolyard Garden Initiative Fairbanks, Alaska

A collaborative educational program led by Calypso Farm and Ecology Center

Calypso Farm and Ecology Center (Calypso), located near Fairbanks, Alaska (District 8) operates the Schoolyard Garden Initiative (SGI), an innovative community food program which creates school gardens that function as youth-operated food production gardens during the summer months and experiential learning environments during the school year. **Calypso is seeking a legislative appropriation of \$25,000 to support the Schoolyard Garden Initiative (SGI).**

About Calypso

Founded in 1999, Calypso is an educational, working farm located in Ester, Alaska, and ten miles outside of Fairbanks. *Calypso's mission is to promote local agriculture and environmental awareness through hands-on education in natural and farming ecosystems.* Calypso provides hands-on educational programs for children and adults, reaching thousands of individuals annually. Programs include: farm field trips, farm and garden workshops, Community Shared Agriculture (CSA), farm apprenticeships and an extensive school garden network. Calypso's programs are valuable models for other communities statewide and nationally. Through all of its programming, Calypso works to provide food and education access for low-income members of our community.

About the Schoolyard Garden Initiative

The Schoolyard Garden Initiative (SGI) responds to the need for hands-on educational opportunities in the schools, a garden connection for children and locally grown food for the community. The goal of the initiative is to support a network of school gardens functioning as experiential learning environments for teachers and students during the school year, and as food production gardens – maintained by Middle and High School students - during the summer months. Calypso plays the lead role in the initiative by caring for the gardens during the summer, consulting on garden design and development, supporting teachers in using the gardens and maintaining a network of communication between schools.

Since its inception in 2003, the program has been an incredible success, evolving and growing at an astonishing rate. There are currently six participating schools: five with established gardens (University Park Elementary, Hunter Elementary, Woodriver Elementary, Pearl Creek Elementary and Randy Smith Middle) and one in a year-one planting phase (Chinook Charter School). Additional schools continue to express interest.

Program Impacts

The Schoolyard Garden Initiative currently impacts thousands of members of the Fairbanks community, with the potential to reach tens of thousands of Alaskans statewide.

Community Food – By designing school gardens as neighborhood food production gardens, local food needs are met. Each school garden meets the vegetables needs for a minimum of 20 families through the summer months. Food Stamps, WIC and Senior Coupons are accepted. Produce is available through CSAs and neighborhood farm stands.

Community Vitality – Food gardens are a beautiful and functional addition to school grounds. The daily presence of a youth garden crew at the school throughout the summer brings life and vitality to neighborhoods. Community volunteers (of all ages) are sought and welcome to work along side the youth in the gardens.

Education – During the school year, gardens provide an excellent outdoor classroom for teachers and a focal point for hands-on learning throughout the seasons. Calypso provides an array of educational support for teachers, including facilitated garden-based lessons in math, language and science and printed resource materials. During the summer, student gardeners, volunteers and community members learn about food production, working together and healthy eating habits.

Youth Empowerment – Each school garden can accommodate approximately 30 student gardeners through Calypso’s Employing Alaskan Teens in Gardening (EATinG) program. Each student is asked to commit to a minimum of one month in the program. As part of the program, students work for 3 hours daily (M-Th). They are expected to show up on time, work hard, communicate openly, have fun and eat the vegetables they grow! A qualified School Garden Supervisor works with the students to develop these skills. As a result, student gardeners emerge from the program with valuable work and life skills and an enormous sense of accomplishment.

Schoolyard Garden Initiative Funding

The SGI is a grassroots effort, fueled by thousands of volunteer hours and in-kind support and funded by a number of sources. Calypso takes a diversified approach to program funding to insure stability.

2012 secured funding for the SGI includes:

- \$23,500 – Community support – individual private donors
- \$36,000 – State of Alaska Designated Legislative Grant (#12-DC-493)

How State of Alaska Funds will be used

State funds will be used to directly support the six schools in the school district with active school gardens (listed above). Funds will be used to for essential materials needed for each garden. Five of the school gardens will need \$4,000 each and the newest school garden (Chinook Charter School) will need \$5000 for a total of \$25,000. The funding breakdown is as follows:

Capital needs for five schools includes:

- Gardening Tools - \$400
- Building Supplies- \$1,000
- Irrigation Supplies- \$500
- Seeds and Starts- \$1,600
- Top Soil- \$500

Capital needs one school includes:

- Gardening Tools -\$2,500
- Irrigation Supplies -\$500
- Farm Stand Canopy -\$500
- Top Soil -\$1,500

Contact:

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EIN (Tax ID) # - 92-0169368

Calypso Farm and Ecology Center is making a capital project request for \$25,000 to support the development of the School Garden Initiative in Fairbanks, Alaska. The following budget breakdown is to support capital needs at each of six school gardens (Chinook Charter School, Woodriver Elementary, University Park Elementary, Pearl Creek Elementary, Randy Smith Middle School and Hunter Elementary)

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Capital needs for the five schools are broken down as follows:

Gardening Tools - \$400
Building Supplies- \$1,000
Irrigation Supplies- \$500
Seeds and Starts- \$1,600
Top Soil- \$500

Capital needs for Chinook Charter School are broken down as follows:

Gardening Tools -\$2,500
Irrigation Supplies -\$500
Farm Stand Canopy -\$500
Top Soil -\$1,500

Timeline – April, 2013 – December, 2013

April - Seeds are started in the greenhouse.

May – supplies are purchased for use by over 120 Student Gardeners. Garden preparation and planting begins.

June – Farm Stand and Garden Sheds are built by Student Gardeners under supervision. Neighborhood Farm Stands are open for business

July and August – Student Gardeners work at each school garden to develop the soil, care for the gardens and market the produce to the neighborhood

September – Each school uses their school garden for educational purposes – teacher training support from Calypso.

October – Gardens are cleaned, tools and supplies stored for the winter. Teachers gather seeds from the garden and begin year-round indoor garden related educational activities.

November and December – Teachers continue to use the garden for inspiration in teaching core subjects. Calypso provides support and a standards-based garden curriculum guide to all participating schools. Calypso carries out program evaluation and works on materials about the program for use by communities statewide and nationally.

Calypso SGI Funding By Source

	Category	\$ Amount
A	Total Project Cost	\$96,505
B	Funding Already Secured	\$59,500
C	FY13 State Funding Request	\$25,000
D	Other Funding Requests	<u>\$50,500</u>
E	Additional Funding Required	\$0