

### **Integrating Urban Agriculture with Youth Development through Community Tours**

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This project will use the recently completed science-based results from the 2012 Urban Agriculture project (Surls) and extend that information through four hands-on experiential urban ag tours throughout the state. The tours will involve participants from UCCE, community organizations and agencies and will consist of visiting urban agriculture sites in northern and southern California, which currently provide urban agriculture education to youth and the community. We will incorporate cultural, racial, ethnic and income diversity among tour sites and participants. We will develop two youth trainings on how to conduct these tours, involving youth from the community-based urban ag organizations that will also be tour sites.

There are several outcomes we hope to achieve for these tours: (1) provide an effective strategy for sharing the information, curricula and other materials collected and developed as part of the ANR Urban Agriculture project (Surls) funded in 2012; (2) foster interaction between ANR farm, consumer science, IPM and 4-H youth development advisors, including several new ANR hires (Urban Ag-Alameda/Contra Costa; Food Systems-North Bay) and representatives from community organizations in several regions; (3) create opportunities for youth development, empowerment and job training; (4) create sustainable outreach strategies for joint UCCE-community work, especially involving digital and social media; (5) educate and sensitize all participants to social justice, racial, ethnic, and class differences; and (6) create effective adult/youth experiential education.

The project will be evaluated by gathering outcome data after each tour, at the end of all four tours and after each youth training. Quantitative and qualitative data will be gathered and analyzed to provide insights after year 1 which can be used to improve tours and the training in year 2. Metrics will also be gathered at the end of the project to provide preliminary insights about benefits accruing to the organizations associated with the urban ag tour sites (positive media, increased connections, funding), their personnel (increased linkages with UCCE sources of technical expertise, UC information, etc), UCCE personnel (increased understanding

of successful community-based strategies, linkages with local policy) and community youth (job opportunities, leadership development).

The project will produce a training tool kit for use by ANR or community partners, who wish to train youth to provide ag tours. Outreach materials developed for the urban ag tours and the youth training toolkit will be housed on SAREP and ANR websites and shared via digital and social media. In addition, at least one journal article will describe both the process and outcome data, results and implications.