

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION
BALTIMORE CITY





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Manami Brown, City Extension Director, visits The Greener Garden in Baltimore City with owners, Warren Blue and Lavette Blue
L - R, Warren Blue, Manami Brown, Lavette Blue

The University of Maryland Extension (UME)-Baltimore City has been a long-term partner in strengthening communities in Baltimore for decades by working to address specific goals voiced by community members and stakeholders. In 2016, a multi-year community development plan was implemented to continue to deliver educational programming citywide, and to implement the UME-Baltimore City Feed Our Future (FOF) Initiative in 7 identified City Council Districts.

Since 2016, we've delivered educational programs and resources in every City Council District reaching over 75,922 youth and families in the areas of youth development, financial wellness, public health, food safety, agricultural production, and natural resources. This report highlights the accomplishments of the faculty, staff, and volunteers in 2021 in meeting the needs and interests of communities.

In 2021, we continued to focus on the FOF Initiative which holistically addresses food insecurity in targeted Healthy Food Priority Areas (also known as food deserts).

This year we focused on 7 of the 14 City Council Districts. In this annual report, we highlight some of the work accomplished by developing an Interactive Story Map designed to deliver a detailed presentation of the FOF Initiative from 2016-2019 in a multimedia format.

View the Feed Our Future Story Map:

[Click Here](#)

Baltimore City Extension Director

our mission.

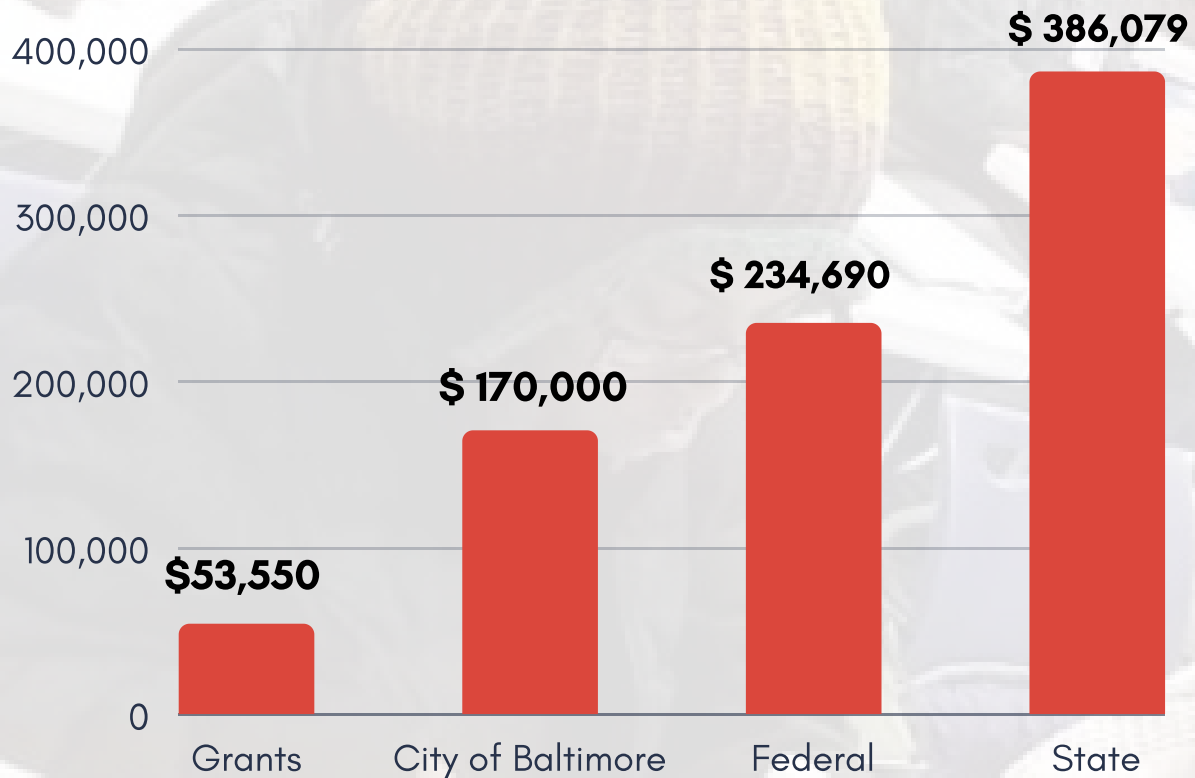
We embody the University's land-grant mission with a commitment to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, preserve our natural resources, improve quality of life, and empower the next generation through world-class education.

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FY 2021 FUNDING BREAKDOWN

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022



DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

The Cooperative Extension Service (CES) was created by the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. As the name implies, it is a cooperative educational relationship among the three levels of government. The federal partner is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the state partner is the land-grant university, and the county partner is the local government.

4,835

Number of people
served citywide in
2021

85

UME program sites
throughout
Baltimore City

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URBAN
AGRICULTURE 

2021



Cultivate Baltimore: Hand-scale farm tools
at Strength to Love 2 / Denzel Mitchell
(pictured)

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AGRICULTURE 

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ABOUT

The Urban Agriculture program serves urban farmers and other food and agriculture entrepreneurs by helping them learn what they need to achieve their goals better.

In 2021, the program delivered 14 educational events (72 educational hours) in Baltimore City with 367 participants.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 4th Annual Urban Farmer Winter Meeting
- 10-week MD Beginning Farmer Success Course
- 3 Urban Farmer Field Schools on high tunnel best management practices
- 1 Urban Farmer Field School on mushroom production
- 2 tours of Baltimore City farms
- 1 food safety certification course
- 4-part class on careers in agriculture and natural resources for a community partner's workforce development program

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OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

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URBAN AGRICULTURE

367

Educational Events

92

Technical Assistance

6

Entrepreneurial
Coaching Sessions

- Technical assistance and Entrepreneurial Coaching clients gain value from these programs by adopting improved practices.
- In a follow-up survey of clients, 100% of respondents reported that they would take action on what they had learned from UMD Extension technical assistance.
- For example, in 2021, I helped a start-up hydroponic grower understand the food safety and nutrient management regulations relevant to her greenhouse and connected her with appropriate training and certification opportunities.
- As a result, she became certified to write her nutrient management plan, eliminating the expense of hiring a planner and the risk of regulatory enforcement for being out of compliance.

URBAN AG IN BALTIMORE

In 2021, the UMD Extension Urban Agriculture program served 466 participants, using the lessons learned from the pandemic to best use in-person and online education.

There were four in-person workshops on urban farms around Baltimore City that empowered participants to make the best use of their high tunnels and explore growing mushrooms.

We organized two tours of Baltimore City farms that enabled agricultural decision-makers to meet and listen to city farmers and taught seven farmer professional development and certification events online, expanding the audience and reducing transportation and scheduling barriers.

Baltimore city Urban Ag worked one-on-one with urban growers, supporting 92 clients with quick technical assistance on topics like pest identification and soil test interpretation and meeting regularly for in-depth Entrepreneurial Coaching with 6 clients working on starting small businesses.

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Our Master Gardeners are essential to our program's success. The Baltimore City master gardeners volunteered 4,192 hours, logging 860 hours of continuing education to further their agricultural knowledge. The estimated cost of volunteer hours for 2021 at \$28.54 per hour estimates our volunteer work to be worth \$119,648.20 for the city of Baltimore.

Participants in Urban Agriculture program classes and workshops report changing their farming practices based on what they have learned. On average, participants say that the programs increase their likelihood to have the soil tested (80%), use integrated pest management (75%), and write a farm business plan (82%).

One hundred percent of technical assistance clients report that they will take action based on their received information, with 40% planning to garden more and 40% reporting that the information will help them improve their business. After an Entrepreneurial Coaching session, 92% of participants reported that the coaching helped them identify the next steps for their business.

UME BALTIMORE CITY URBAN AG AROUND THE CITY



UME Baltimore City Urban Ag, Neith Little
How to grow Mushrooms workshop at Whitelock Farm

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FOR



Urban Farmer Meeting



LEAD MD Tour \ Baltimore City
Strength to Love 2



Kimberly Raikes demonstrates how to harvest mushrooms at
Extension mushroom workshop at Whitelock Farm