

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Augusta Housing & Community Development & Black Farm Street, Inc. Choice Neighborhood Early Action Activities Proposal

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into on the ____ day of _____, 2025 by and between the Augusta, GA, (c/o) Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) & Black Farm Street, Inc. (BFS) Black Farm Street, Inc. (BFS) is dedicated to leading the way in sustainable agriculture, empowering farmers, and serving as a hub for knowledge exchange in the agricultural industry. Their mission is to shape a brighter, eco-conscious future for agriculture by providing education, inspiration, and opportunities for active investment in the sustainable food movement.

Augusta’s Choice Neighborhood (CN) Early Action Activities (EAAs) are designed to respond to issues brought forward by residents during the planning process with physical neighborhood improvements that demonstrate the commitment to change and help build momentum for the planning process.

Additionally, neighborhood beautification and placemaking initiatives were identified as necessary to address the issues of blight and social isolation that residents of Allen Homes expressed. Opportunities for youth residing in the neighborhood to engage in educational and recreational activities is also a top priority identified by residents that the EAA’s seek to address.

Food insecurity, specifically lack of access to fresh produce, was highlighted by residents of Allen Homes and the broader Choice Neighborhood as a major issue during the Needs Assessment process.

The above-named parties to this Memorandum of Understanding recognize the importance of preventing and addressing food insecurity. Housing & Community Development’s primary focus is to create positive change by promoting self-sufficiency through partnership in economic development, quality housing, and neighborhood reinvestment.

Part I. Structure and Purpose of Initiative

The local initiative will be known as the Black Farm Street, Inc. (BFS) and Augusta (c/o HCD) Choice Neighborhood (CN) Early Action Activities Initiative. This initiative will provide an alternative access to fresh produce and healthy nutritious food, while helping to eradicate food insecurity.

Part II. Partnership Goals

The goal of the Initiative is to partner with BFS within the Allen Homes community is to:

- Foster partnerships through Augusta Housing and Community Development’s resources that would benefit the local residents
- Provide the installation and education of raised garden beds
- Provide access to fresh and healthy produce.

Part III. Responsibilities of the Parties:

It is understood that HCD and BFS will work together as a team to effectively meet the community's needs within the Allen Homes community. This level of collaboration will require thorough and timely communication between all parties.

- BFS to provide a secure location for the community garden/installation
- HCD to provide learning opportunities in conjunction with Black Farm Street, Inc. for patrons, residents, and local business owners.
- HCD to foster partnerships through their resources that would benefit the Allen Home residents.
- BFS to utilize \$37,250 toward the garden bed installation, materials and labor, garden bed tools, and gardening education
- BFS to continue to foster partnerships and create a volunteer network which will ensure sustainability of the community garden
- BFS to maintain oversight of the community garden
- BFS to provide staff support and management services of the raised garden beds

Part IV. Payment & Fees

BFS agrees to commit a total of \$37,250 for the Choice Neighborhood activities toward the community garden beds to include gardening installation, materials and labor, garden bed tools and education, and installation of fixtures to include a sunshade structure, paintable park benches, and Little Free Library materials.

AUGUSTA'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD EARLY ACTION ACTIVITIES BUDGET DETAILS

Garden Beds Installation Cost Details			
Budget Element	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Costs
Garden Beds	\$300	12	\$3,600
Garden Bed Storage Shed	\$1,600	1	\$1,600
Palletized Risers	\$62.50	24	\$1,500
Garden Bed Material	\$750	12	\$9,000
Garden Bed Tools	\$2,000	Misc.	\$2,000
Garden Bed Irrigation System	\$2,000	1	\$2,000
Garden Bed Installation Labor	\$7,800	1	\$7,800
Gardening Installation and Education	\$20,000	1	\$20,000
Additional Fixtures Installation Cost Details			
Budget Element	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Costs
Sunshade Structure	\$11,500	1	\$11,500
Paintable Park Benches	\$187.50	8	\$1,500
Sunshade Structure Installation	\$14,000	1	\$14,000
Little Free Library Materials	In Kind		

Part V. Public Relations

The parties agree that initially, and throughout the term of this MOU, marketing, and public announcements relative to Initiative activities be coordinated among and approved by both HCD and BFS prior to public release.

Part VI. Relationship of Parties

Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed to constitute or create an association, partnership or joint venture among the participating parties, or any agency or employer-employee relationship. No party is granted, nor shall it represent that it has been granted, any right or authority to assume or create any obligation or responsibility, expressed or implied, on behalf of, or in the name of another party, or bind another party in any manner.

Part VII. Term; Early Termination

The term of the MOU is twelve (12) months from the date of the execution. It is the intention of the participants to work diligently to ensure that within 90 days, all of the Initiative Development Goals shall be met. At that time, renewal of the partnership may be extended upon the agreement of both parties. The participating parties reserve the right to terminate the MOU with 90 days' notice.

Part VIII. Administration and Reports

HCD will facilitate monitoring the Initiative and providing bi-monthly reports to the participants.

Part IX. Additional Provisions

HCD and BFS shall each identify a primary contact and an alternative contact.

Part X. Acknowledgements

As the authorized representative for my organization, I have read this MOU regarding the Initiative. I agree that it accurately describes the purpose, operational plan, and roles of the Initiative participants. I understand that this document is not a contract and is not a legally binding agreement.

However, by executing this Memorandum of Understanding, I further understand that the participating parties are forming an alliance to accomplish the goals set forth herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands and seals as of the date first written above:

ATTEST: AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
(The City)

Approved as to form: _____
Augusta, GA Law Department

Date: _____

By: _____
Garnett L. Johnson
As its Mayor

Date: _____

By: _____
Charles Jackson
Interim Director

Date: _____

By: _____
Black Farm Street, Inc.

Date: _____

SEAL

Lena Bonner
As its Clerk