



# NUag Impact Snapshot Community Building & Youth Engagement



This impact snapshot is part of the National Urban Agriculture initiative and is based on interviews conducted at the NUag Conference, held August 4-6, 2024, in Detroit. Drawing from multiple participant interviews, we have crafted thematic snapshots to highlight key insights. Overall, 48 interviews were conducted across various participant groups. This particular snapshot amplifies perspectives on community building and youth engagement, focusing on relevance, response, and results.

## Relevance

Community building is key to developing resilient urban agricultural systems. As urban populations grow, integrating farming into city landscapes helps address food insecurity and environmental challenges like urban heat and waste management. The Heal Oasis Project, supported by USDA, emphasizes youth engagement, mentioned 35 times, by empowering young people to take active roles in agriculture. Through school programs and intergenerational learning, this initiative cultivates a new wave of urban farmers. Community building is noted 97 times, reinforcing the importance of innovation, leadership, and sustainable practices for future generations.

## Response

Cooperators like Southern Cooperatives in Mississippi and Denver Urban Gardens in Colorado are creating programs that connect youth with agricultural mentors. These initiatives offer hands-on experience, helping young people learn about soil health, water conservation, and sustainable farming. The youth are better prepared to contribute to a sustainable food system by gaining practical skills and environmental awareness. Teaching these values early supports the development of future farmers who will lead efforts in food production, innovation, and building resilient communities through sustainable agricultural practices.



## Results

Youth engagement in agriculture has made a strong impact, especially in cities like Denver. The Denver Urban Gardens program has seen increased youth involvement, leading to the creation of community-run gardens now feeding hundreds of families. One participant noted, "We are seeing a new generation of farmers, young and ready to lead." These projects not only support sustainable food sources but also build community pride and ensure continuity through collaboration between youth and experienced farmers for long-term agricultural resilience.



Disclaimer: This snapshot is provided for informational purposes only and reflects the perspectives of individual participants at the NUag Conference. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United States Department of Agriculture or any federal agency. This material is not intended to promote any specific policy or advocacy position and complies with Executive Order 14173 regarding merit-based and non-discriminatory federal program communications.