



Program:

02/04/2026 1:43 PM

Application #: 360710

Application / Project Name:

Nourished, Together: A Community - Based Food Access and Connection Initiative - 360710

Application Party ID:

360692

Organization ID#:

360561

Please complete the fields below for your organization. If your program is sponsored by a fiscal agent, please complete the information for the sponsor organization.

Organization Legal Name:

Black Seeds

LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org Profile URL:

Organization Address:

580 N. 4th Street
Memphis, TN 38105

Organization Phone Number:

901-289-5016

If your program is sponsored by a fiscal agent, please list the name of your program.

Grant Contact Name:

Rich, Derravia

Grant Contact Title:

Grant Admin

Grant Contact Email:

blackseeds2020@gmail.com



Program:

02/04/2026 1:43 PM

Application #: 360710

Grant Contact Phone:

901-289-5016

As stated in the application guidelines, an eligibility requirement for this application is a LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org profile in progress. To meet eligibility, the applying organization needs to submit a new LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org profile to be published OR submit updates to an existing profile for review by February 6, 2026.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

As stated in the application guidelines, a representative from each organization chosen as a grant finalist must participate in the presentation for the GiVE 365 Finals event in April.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

In order to keep GiVE 365 members informed of the grant's progress, grantees are required to provide brief updates that can be shared with members two times in the twelve-month grant period. If awarded this grant, you will be asked to provide updates that might be shared with GiVE 365 members through some or all of the following methods: social media, e-newsletters, photos/videos, site visits, and other donor education opportunities.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

How will GiVE 365 funds be used?

General operating support (to advance our food access work)

Grant Amount Requesting:

\$20,000.00



Program:

02/04/2026 1:43 PM

Application #: 360710

Please provide a brief 2-3 sentence summary of your project or program for use in communications with GiVE 365 members and for The Finals event program, should your application be chosen. (The description may be edited by staff.)

Nourished, Together is a community-based food access and connection initiative led by Black Seeds in Uptown Memphis. The project brings neighbors together through fresh food, shared spaces, and culturally rooted programming that strengthens relationships, dignity, and care. By centering community-led solutions, Nourished, Together reinforces food as a tool for connection, wellness, and belonging.

Please explain the ways your organization helps build food access and community connection through homegrown solutions.

Black Seeds builds food access and community connection by creating neighborhood-based spaces where fresh food, education, and relationships grow together. Through urban farming, youth programming, and community stewardship, we provide consistent access to locally grown food while creating opportunities for neighbors to gather, learn, and support one another. Our work is rooted in fresh food production, community knowledge and lived experience, ensuring solutions are designed by and for the people who rely on them. By centering care, culture, and shared responsibility, Black Seeds strengthens food access while fostering dignity, belonging, and long-term community resilience.

How will the grant funds be used?

Grant funds will be used to support community-led food access & connection through the initiative Nourished, Together. Funding will help cover program coordination, fresh food distribution, educational and engagement materials, & supplies needed to steward shared spaces for food growth. These resources will allow Black Seeds to continue providing consistent access to fresh food while creating welcoming opportunities for neighbors to gather, learn, & care for one another in ways that strengthen dignity, belonging, and community resilience.

Our work reduces barriers to food access by meeting people where they are, through trusted community spaces and culturally relevant distribution methods. By growing and distributing food within the community, Black Seeds shortens the distance between people and the nourishment they need. Through urban farming and community markets, we strengthen local food systems that are responsive to neighborhood needs and preferences. Black Seeds treats food access as a shared responsibility, building systems that allow communities to feed themselves with care and consistency. Grant funds will be used throughout Spring, Summer, and Fall 2026 to support a series of hands-on, experiential educational sessions for community members of all ages. These sessions are



Program:

02/04/2026 1:43 PM

Application #: 360710

designed to move beyond information-sharing by equipping residents with practical tools they can use at home, such as culturally relevant recipes and clear guidance on growing and preparing foods.

Explain how people from the communities you serve are involved in your organization's decision-making.

People from the community we serve play an active role in Black Seeds' decision-making. Our neighbors are our strongest supporters and trusted partners, and their input directly shapes our work. For example, Ms. Sade, who has lived directly behind Black Seeds Urban Farm for the past 50 years, is regularly involved in seasonal growing conversations and often shares which crops she would like to see planted each season. Ms. Laura, who lives across the street, also provides ongoing feedback and suggestions for both food and flowers that reflect neighborhood needs and preferences. Their influence helps guide our planting plans, programming, and priorities. Because of relationships like these, Black Seeds remains deeply rooted, responsive, and respected in Uptown Memphis, with community trust serving as the foundation of our work.

In practice, community leadership at Black Seeds is informal, relational, and ongoing, with neighbors actively shaping decisions through regular conversation and feedback.

As a result of this funding, what will be achieved for both your organization and those you serve?

My community needs nourishment in ways that are not always visible, measurable, or easy to quantify. While the lack of access to fresh food and essential resources continues to rise, there is also a deeper crisis of disconnection, fatigue, and neglect. Many families are navigating daily survival without consistent investment in spaces that allow them to feel joy, rest, or belonging. Black Seeds was created in response to that reality—not only to grow and share food, but to create environments where people can breathe, gather, and be reminded of their worth.

Through our work, nourishment becomes more than a meal; it becomes a shared experience rooted in care, culture, and community trust. Funding allows us to sustain spaces that transmit love, creativity, and dignity—places where neighbors are not treated as recipients, but as contributors to something life-giving. This work is about restoring hope, strengthening connection, and affirming that our community deserves to be nourished wholly—physically, emotionally, and collectively. Black Seeds is dedicated to being a reliable food and community resource.

At its core, Nourished, Together: A Community-Based Food Access and Connection Initiative is about building food access and community connection side by side—ensuring that nourishment is shared,



Program:

02/04/2026 1:43 PM

Application #: 360710

collective, and rooted in the belief that our community heals and grows best when we are nourished together.

Full Name of Executive Director or Authorized Signer:

Derravia K. Rich

Date:

2/4/2026

Black Seeds

Budget Category	Amount (\$)
Professional Instruction & Program Facilitation	6,500
Fresh Food Distribution & Food Access Support	4,000
Program Coordination & Administration	2,500
Farm & Garden Supplies	2,500
Educational & Engagement Materials	1,500
Community Meals, Snacks & Hospitality	1,500
Transportation & Logistics	1,000
Total	20,000

Budget Category	Amount (\$)
Professional Instruction & Program Facilitation	6,500
Fresh Food Distribution & Food Access Support	4,000
Program Coordination & Administration	2,500
Farm & Garden Supplies	2,500
Educational & Engagement Materials	1,500
Community Meals, Snacks & Hospitality	1,500
Transportation & Logistics	1,000
Total	20,000