



Program:

02/13/2026 2:49 PM

Application #: 361516

Application / Project Name:

The Works, Inc. Community Orchards - 361516

Application Party ID:

316970

Organization ID#:

20101

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:

The Works, Inc.

LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org Profile URL:

<https://roundtable.livegivemidsouth.org/organizations/1147041>

Organization Address:

1471 Genesis Circle, Memphis, TN 38106-5808

Organization Phone Number:

901-946-9675

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

Grant Contact Name:

Eric Story Neimeyer

Grant Contact Title:

Sr. Grants Coordinator & Project Manager

Grant Contact Email:

eric@theworkscdc.org



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Grant Contact Phone:

901-288-0572

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?

Expand or sustain an existing program

Grant Amount Requesting:

\$10,907.00



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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.)

The Works, Inc. will use this funding to strengthen and maintain its growing network of over twenty community orchards across Memphis. Through resident-led stewardship, hands-on training, installation of new plantings, and proper maintenance, we will increase access to free, fresh fruit in neighborhoods facing food insecurity while building community connection through shared harvest and education activities.

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

The Works, Inc. builds food access and community connection through practical, place-based solutions rooted in neighborhood leadership and long-term land stewardship. Our community orchard network (currently 22 orchards located in Frayser, Binghampton, North Memphis, the Medical District, and South Memphis) creates permanent, food-producing green spaces that provide free, fresh fruit within walking distance of residents.

Many of the neighborhoods we serve face significant food insecurity, limited access to affordable fresh produce, and persistent diet-related health disparities. Rather than relying solely on external food distribution, we invest in living infrastructure: fruit and nut trees and edible shrubs that yield year after year. These orchards transform underutilized land into productive community assets, increasing access to healthy food while improving neighborhood environments.

Our approach is intentionally community-driven. Before planting, we engage residents to gather input on site design and preferred fruit varieties. We host planting days, pruning workshops, harvest gatherings, and nutrition education activities that create opportunities for neighbors to learn together and build relationships. We also work closely with local leaders and residents to identify and support orchard stewards who help guide ongoing care and activation at each site. This shared responsibility strengthens local ownership and ensures the orchards reflect the identity and priorities of each neighborhood.

In addition to expanding food access, our orchards enhance community connection. They serve as gathering spaces where families meet, children learn where food comes from, and neighbors work side by side to care for shared land. Seasonal harvests become moments of celebration and



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collective benefit. Over time, these orchards contribute to neighborhood pride, increased use of public and community spaces, and stronger social ties.

By combining regenerative horticultural practices, resident engagement, and long-term maintenance support, The Works, Inc. advances a sustainable model of food access that is rooted in place and sustained by community leadership. Through our growing orchard network, we are building healthier neighborhoods, one tree, one harvest, and one relationship at a time.

How will the grant funds be used?

Grant funds will be used to pay for TWI staff time (our Urban Orchards Program Manager at 10% FTE, Regenerative Initiatives General Manager at 2%, and one of our Memphis Native Tree Works Hands at 3%) as they are actively engaged with orchard maintenance, community engagement, and new plantings in existing orchards, with residents helping to select plant varieties. TWI's fringe rate is 25% to cover benefits and taxes.

Further funding will be used to purchase trees (8 in 15-gallon pots), shrubs (8 in 3-gallon pots), plant labels (16), soil and compost (4 cubic yards), and mulch (5 cubic yards) to ensure that new plantings are identifiable and healthy.

Finally, grant funds will be used for indirect costs, at 10% of direct costs.

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

People from the communities we serve are actively involved in shaping our work through co-design, stewardship roles, and ongoing engagement. Before establishing or expanding orchards, we consult with community members and host meetings to gather input on site selection, plant varieties, and desired programming. We identify local site ambassadors who serve as trusted leaders and help guide activation, maintenance priorities, and communication with neighbors. Their lived experience directly informs operational decisions, programming focus, and long-term strategy.

In practice, this shared leadership model creates responsive, neighborhood-rooted projects. For example, this summer our Leath Street Community Orchard produced its largest peach harvest to date, yielding over 100 pounds of fresh fruit in a majority African-American census tract facing significant health disparities and poverty. Thirteen families received peaches directly, neighbors were invited to pick their own, and passing pedestrians joined in as well, sparking spontaneous conversations and new relationships. The site steward transformed surplus peaches into homemade



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pies, sharing and selling them to support ongoing stewardship. What began as a harvest became a community-led celebration demonstrating how resident leadership shapes not just our decisions, but the life and impact of each orchard.

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

As a result of this funding, The Works, Inc. will strengthen the health, productivity, and long-term sustainability of our 22-orchard network (and growing), increasing the amount of fresh fruit available to Memphis residents in neighborhoods facing food insecurity and diet-related health disparities. Tree health and survival rates will improve through proper pruning, soil care, and maintenance support, leading to greater and more consistent annual yields.

For the communities we serve, access to free, fresh fruit within walking distance will increase, reducing barriers to healthy food and supporting improved dietary habits over time. More residents will participate in harvests, workshops, and stewardship roles, deepening community ownership of shared green spaces. Neighborhood connection will grow as orchards continue to serve as gathering spaces that foster relationships, pride, and collective care.

Organizationally, this funding will enhance our capacity to maintain and coordinate a distributed orchard network, strengthen partnerships with local stewards, and build a more resilient, community-led model of urban food production. The result will be a stronger living infrastructure system, one that produces more food, engages more neighbors, and sustains itself through shared leadership and long-term stewardship.

Full Name of Executive Director or Authorized Signer:

Roshun Austin

Date:

2/13/2026

The Works, Inc.

The Works, Inc. - Give 365 Budget

Expenses			
Line Item			
Personnel	<i>Annual Salary</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Line Total</i>
Urban Orchards Program Manager	44000	8%	\$3,520.00
Regenerative Initiatives General Manager	57500	2%	\$1,150.00
Memphis Native Tree Works Hand	41000	3%	\$1,230.00
Personnel Total			\$5,900.00
Fringe	<i>25% Fringe Rate</i>		\$1,475.00
Supplies	<i>Number</i>	<i>\$ Per</i>	
Fruit & Edible Trees, 15 gal pot	8	150	\$1,200.00
Fruit & Edible Shrubs, 3 gal pot	8	60	\$480.00
Plant Labels	16	10	\$160.00
Soil, cu yds	4	100	\$400.00
Mulch, cu yds	5	60	\$300.00
Supplies Total			\$2,540.00
		Direct Costs	\$9,915.00
		Indirect Costs	\$991.50
		Total Costs	\$10,906.50
Revenue			\$0.00