DIG YOUTH PROGRAM
REFERENCE FACT SHEET

What is DIG?
Durham Inner-city Gardeners (DIG) is a youth-driven urban farming leadership development program. DIG empowers teens by teaching organic gardening, sound business practices, healthy food choices and food security values. The program emphasizes sustainable living and growing practices, ecological balance, and the natural recycling of organic materials for plant health and nourishment. DIG youth are paid a stipend to cultivate fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers and mushrooms, which they sell at the Durham Farmer's Market.

Why Do We Hire Them?
• To bring together a diverse group of youth who are interested in working on a common goal.
• We are looking for a commitment to the DIG Program, and a willingness to work hard and be a part of a team.

What Do They Do?
• Work 12-20 hours per week for 12 weeks on our urban market-garden in North East Central Durham. We offer two 12 - week sessions and the youth can apply for either session. *(While school is in session the job is 12 hours per week)*
• Learn to grow vegetables and how to manage a small market garden.
• Sell produce (grown by the youth!) at our booth at the Durham Farmer’s Market.

How is the Program Structured?
• Youth work together as a team, with the support of crew leaders and the program coordinators.
• Each crew member signs a contract at the beginning of the summer, and receives weekly feedback from their peers and coordinators.
• Youth receive a stipend for their participation in the program. A portion of the stipend is paid out biweekly.

What Happens Over the Summer?
DIG is much more than a job, we teach…..
• Life skills, self awareness and self confidence, responsibility for and how to care for the environment, plus the ability to feed oneself by growing food.
• We support, encourage and empower the youth to develop and use their leadership skills.
• The youth learn business and communication skills both in the garden and while working at the farmer’s market.
• We engage the youth in team-building and problem-solving activities.
• At the beginning of the summer, each youth sets personal goals and we support each other in reaching them.

How Can You Help?
Each year we receive many more applications than we can accept. We have to give preference to applicants whose materials, including their reference, arrive on time. *For the sake of this young person, please be sure to get your reference back to the youth as soon as possible.* We also encourage you to check in with this young person throughout the summer, should they be accepted. Thanks for all your help!