

# School Garden Assessment Tool



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA



September 19, 2019

# Presenters

## Team

## Role

Liz Egelski

Lead for garden *assessment* tool

Barbara MKNelly

Back-up for Liz

MaryAnn Mills

Lead for garden *planning* tools, back-up support for garden assessment

This presentation is being recorded and will be posted to the CalFresh Healthy Living, UC website

# Topics

- ✓ Background
- ✓ *Why* use this Tool
- ✓ *When* to use this Tool
- ✓ *How* to use this Tool
- ✓ Review of the Tool
- ✓ *Expectations* and PEARS *reporting*
- ✓ Q & A



# Background – Development of the Tool

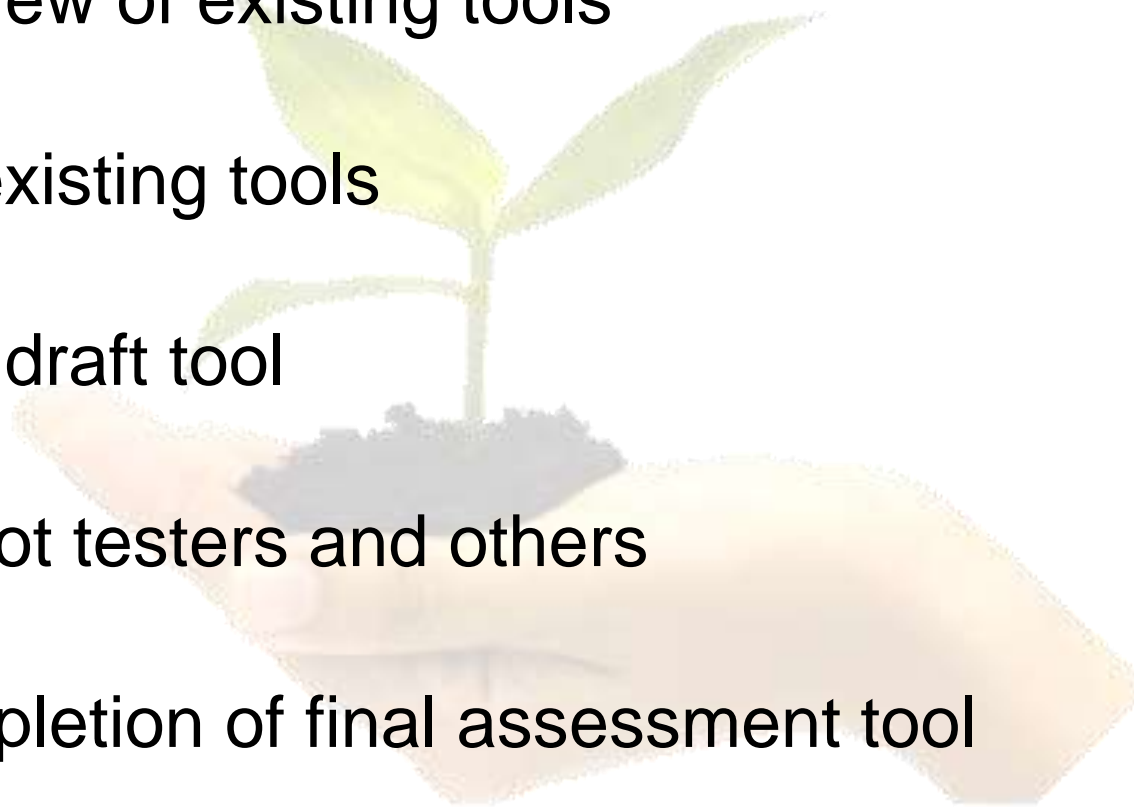
Research and review of existing tools

Pilot tests of two existing tools

Development of a draft tool

Feedback from pilot testers and others

Revision and completion of final assessment tool



# Why use this Tool?

***Identify*** and ***track*** areas of improvement in school garden programming



how integrated the garden is into the school



how it is used to support SNAP-Ed goals

# When to use this Tool?

✓ **Currently** implementing school garden projects

✓ **Ready to...**

assess the current state of the garden

*in order to*

expand and/or improve programming

*and*

track efforts made through reassessment

# How do you use this Tool?



Review all tabs – get familiar with the questions



Complete what you are able to



Identify partner(s) at the school:

to assess

to review results

to plan improvements

# Assessment Sections



**Site Information Tab**



**Four Assessment Content Tabs**



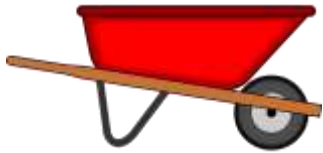
**Results and Planning Tab**



# Assessment Content Tabs



**Institutional Support and Partnerships**



**Garden Planning, Maintenance, and Support**



**Student Experience**



**Parent and Community Engagement and Support**

# Let's Review the Tool



# Expectations

**Assess** at least one per county/cluster

If possible, each garden coordinator complete one

**Use** results → *plan* improvements

Send “Results and Planning” tab to State Office

**Report** in PEARS

**Reassess** a year later

# PEARS Reporting PSE Activity – Needs Section

PEARS

Plan ▾

Track ▾

Analyze ▾



Barbara ▾

Track / PSE Site Activities / 1021 Howard (Mercy Housing) / Needs, Readiness & Effectiveness

The readiness assessment "1021 Howard (Mercy Housing)" was attached successfully. ✕

## Needs, Readiness & Effectiveness

Assessing a site's readiness for change is an appropriate place to start for SNAP-Ed implementers working on PSE changes. An asset map, needs assessment, or organizational readiness assessment is a good first step toward implementation, and thus a key program output for SNAP-Ed. While conducting a formal assessment is optional, environmental assessments offer an excellent opportunity to help understand the effectiveness of your work, when you pair baseline and post-intervention assessments. Increased environmental assessment scores provide objective, systematic evidence of documented environment-level improvements.

**Did you conduct any needs or readiness assessments at this site or organization during the current reporting year of October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019 (SNAP-Ed)? \***

Yes ▾

The SNAP-Ed Framework interpretive guide suggests [several surveys](#) to be used when assessing organizational readiness for PSE changes. Additionally, see the [environmental settings flowchart](#) to determine which assessments are recommended.

### Needs and Readiness Assessments

[+ Add Assessment](#)

Please specify all individual-level assessment tools used to evaluate PSE work at this site or organization during the **current reporting year**.

#### Progress

22%

- ✓ General Information
- ✓ **Needs, Readiness & Effectiveness**
- ✓ Strategy
- ✓ Changes Adopted
- ✓ Individual Effectiveness
- ✓ Recognition & Media Coverage
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Reflection
- ✓ Mark as Complete

# Let's go to PEARS for an example...

The logo for PEARS is displayed on a dark green rectangular background. The word "PEARS" is written in a white, rounded, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is replaced by a stylized white outline of a pear with a small green leaf at the top.

## Edit Readiness Assessments



### Assessment type \*

Needs assessment/environmental scan

### Survey Instrument \*

Other (please specify)

### Name or brief description of tool \*

Garden Assessment - UC

### Approximate date baseline assessment administered

2019-10-05



### Brief description of baseline assessment results

Areas Identified for Improvement: 1) Institutional Support and Partnerships – Will form a school garden committee that meets regularly, 2) Garden Planning, Maintenance, and Support – will encourage and increase involvement of students, teachers, school staff and parents in preparation of the garden for next year 3) Student Engagement – will encourage and increase involvement of students, teachers, school staff and parents in preparation of the garden for next year

### Assessment Score

160

### Approximate date follow-up assessment administered

2020-09-25



### Brief description of follow-up assessment results

Changes Made to Garden: A school garden committee was formed and meets regularly (10pts), 2) Students, teachers, school staff and parents were involved in garden preparation, led by a garden coordinator (10pts) 3) Students are allowed access to the garden outside of instruction or planned activities (10pts), 4) A 'garden

### Follow Up Assessment Score

200

# Feedback Form

...we want to hear from you

*Optional, the form provides guidance:*

 Overall Best Practices

 Design/Ease of Use

 Content

 Meet Needs?

**Will be posted  
on website**

# Package of Materials for *Getting Started*

- **School Garden Planning Guide**
  - Readiness & Sustainability Assessment
  - Building your Garden Team Guide
  - Garden Maintenance Plan
  - Garden Supply Purchase Form
- **Released Quarter 1**



# Questions?



# Contacts

## Team

Liz Egelski

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## Role

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# Thank you!

*This material is funded through a joint agreement among the USDA/FNS, CDSS CalFresh Healthy Living Section, UC Davis and the UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE). These institutions are equal opportunity providers and employers. CalFresh Food provides assistance to low income households and can help buy nutritious foods for better health. For information, call 1 877 847 3663.*

