



Museums for America

Sample Application MA-255553-OMS-24
Project Category: Community Engagement

New York Botanical Garden

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$249,912
Amount of cost share:	\$250,618

The New York Botanical Garden will implement the second phase of its Therapeutic Horticulture and Rehabilitative Interventions for Veteran Engagement (THRIVE) program to provide horticultural therapy programming for local veterans. In partnership with the Resilience and Wellness Center in the Bronx-based James J. Peters Veterans Administration Medical Center, the garden's Edible Academy will expand services and outreach for participating veterans and THRIVE alums. Program participants will learn about plants and nutrition by growing, harvesting, preparing, and consuming fresh produce with horticultural therapy specialists. The garden will hold a symposium with cultural institutions, horticultural therapy specialists, and veterans' organizations to share strategies and best practices informed by the THRIVE program, and staff will present findings and share information about horticultural therapy intervention for veterans at professional conferences and via new digital resources.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion
- Digital Product Plan

When preparing an application for the next deadline, be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program to which you are applying.

NYBG

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Project Title: Sustaining and Broadening the Therapeutic Horticulture and Rehabilitative Interventions for Veteran Engagement (THRIVE) Program

Project Justification

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) seeks funding in the amount of \$249,912 from IMLS Museums for America for “Sustaining and Broadening the Therapeutic Horticulture and Rehabilitative Interventions for Veteran Engagement (THRIVE) Program.” The proposed project advances the IMLS Museums for America Goal 2: *Maximize the use of museum resources to address community needs through partnerships and collaborations*, by leveraging NYBG’s expertise, knowledge, and physical spaces to respond to a clear need in the local veteran community.

More specifically, the THRIVE program strengthens NYBG’s commitment to serve a majority Bronx community by utilizing an innovative wellness model to support veterans, an often-underserved population (Objective 2.1). Through THRIVE, the Garden enhances its engagement with a community, not traditionally served by botanical gardens or other cultural institutions (Objective 2.2), and provides a model not normally used by veterans’ organizations. In addition, this project seeks to increase the visibility of the THRIVE program and its successes by sharing best practices with the larger community of cultural institutions, horticultural therapy specialists, and veterans’ organizations through innovative outreach, knowledge and information sharing strategies (Objective 2.3). The proposed work described below will build upon Phase I of THRIVE, initiated with the support of IMLS (MA-20-19-0677-19), which included a pilot project, a data analysis and evaluation effort, and service delivery over a period of three years, including program implementation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Phase I: In 2019, NYBG began a robust collaborative partnership with the ***Resilience and Wellness Center (RWC) within the Bronx-based James J. Peters Veterans Administration Medical Center*** to create a horticultural therapy (HT) intervention for veterans. The RWC’s goal is to alleviate veteran death rates due to suicide and addiction by using innovative, whole-mind and body approaches (Please refer to [Supporting Document 4](#) for a commitment letter from RWC). NYBG’s Edible Academy (a state-of-the-art educational facility with a combination of indoor and outdoor gardening and agricultural spaces) became the pilot site for the THRIVE partnership. Through THRIVE, NYBG integrated with the RWC’s pre-existing schedule of interventions for veterans, providing HT programs that contributed to the overall well-being of the participants. THRIVE programming at the Edible Academy played a crucial role in the RWC’s overall approach for Bronx veterans.

Since its inception, THRIVE has shown ***significant impact on the health and well-being of veterans*** in the program. During a pilot evaluation in early 2020, participants were asked to complete pre and post-surveys before and after engaging in THRIVE sessions to rate their mental and physical health. Veterans reported their levels of stress, depressed mood, physical pain, and social isolation, and the HT program demonstrated immediate improvements in well-being, with veterans reporting a significant reduction in all symptoms after one session. Additionally, each THRIVE session showed a sustained effect over the subsequent weeks of the program with veterans reporting significant decreases in pre-session symptom scores demonstrating the longer-term impact of the intervention. ***Overall, the HT provided in THRIVE has shown promising results for improving overall wellness and suicide prevention in at-risk veteran populations.***

The results of the THRIVE pilot assessment were robust enough that they were [published](#) in the peer-reviewed journal *Complementary Therapies in Medicine* (Please refer to [Supporting Document 1](#) for a citation and link to the original article). Since publication, this article has been cited multiple times, demonstrating its impact on the

larger HT community practice (Please refer to [Supporting Document 1](#) for list of select peer-reviewed articles citing Meore *et al.* 2021). In addition, the project team was awarded the 2022 Charles A. Lewis Excellence in Research Award from the American Horticultural Therapy Society for this research with veterans (Please refer to [Supporting Document 3](#) for the Charles A. Lewis Excellence in Research Award letter).

The wellness benefits from THRIVE programming also translate beyond the NYBG grounds, showing its broader appeal and applicability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the THRIVE program pivoted to a virtual setting out of necessity. This allowed the RWC to investigate the effectiveness of remote delivery of HT in reducing suicide-associated risk factors by comparison to the previously mentioned in-person HT program. Using a similar 4-session model but facilitated through a Zoom-based platform with HT materials that were shipped to participants' homes, the RWC was able to test the effectiveness of THRIVE practices outside of the NYBG grounds.

A total of 83 veterans participated in Zoom-based HT spanning 10 cohorts, with a 92.7% participant program completion rate. Program evaluation results of the intervention, while not as effective as the in-person model, were still compelling, showing a significant reduction across all suicide risk outcome domains (*i.e.*, stress, depression, pain, and loneliness). However, feedback from remote participants indicates that veterans prefer an in-person HT model surrounded by green spaces, plants, and nature, and THRIVE has not pursued a remote model since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, **the data suggest that the effectiveness of the HT intervention protocols is robust and transferrable**, demonstrating a need and/or opportunity for outreach and learning about how support programs of this type could be expanded to other sites, whether in-person or virtual.

Regardless of the statistical impacts of THRIVE, the veteran participants have repeatedly and emotionally indicated the importance of the program to their health and well-being. Working with the RWC and NYBG's Marketing team, project staff were able to create a [Plant Talk video](#) that captured alumni testimonials, demonstrating the personal and clinical benefits of THRIVE (Please refer to [Supporting Document 1](#) for a link to the video). This video has created new visibility for the program with HT providers contacting both the RWC and NYBG staff for more information. Through the initial funding by IMLS, THRIVE has become one of NYBG's core wellness programs for this underserved community.

Target Groups: There are two main beneficiary groups of THRIVE including the following primary and secondary beneficiaries:

- **Primary beneficiaries** of this initiative are the veterans participating directly in the THRIVE program. Historically, nearly three-fourths of THRIVE participants were male, with the remaining one-fourth identifying as female or non-binary. Veterans age ranges are between 30 and 70, with military service including conflicts in Iraq/Afghanistan, Vietnam, and more. Looking ahead, there will be 10 cohorts of veterans participating per 12-month cycle, with each cohort serving 8-12 veterans per cohort. Overall, a total of 23 cohorts will be served during the length of the grant, with the potential of directly serving between 230 and 275 individual veterans over the course of the project period. In addition, the THRIVE program showed a demonstrated impact on program alumni who are seeking more connections with nature and each other. Therefore, addressing the HT needs of graduates of THRIVE is a critical component in Phase II of THRIVE. The project team anticipates serving at least 100 additional veterans through alumni programming, for a total of 375 veterans through direct service programming throughout the life of the project. (See below for more details on alumni engagement.)
- **Secondary beneficiaries** are HT practitioners and stakeholders who work with veterans and high-risk populations prone to mental health issues. THRIVE is showing a significant impact on populations with a high risk of suicide, and it is imperative that these practices are shared with the larger community of stakeholders. Using various forms of engagement and media, NYBG and the RWC can increase the visibility of the THRIVE program and the best practices and knowledge reflected in this program. While these efforts

will not be comprehensive training for these practitioners, they will allow the THRIVE team and other experts to share knowledge and resources. It will also assist those seeking to start similar programs at cultural institutions, VA hospitals, nature centers, and park systems.

Through this funding opportunity, the THRIVE program has the potential to serve as a model for other institutions looking to develop similar offerings for underserved communities. By providing guidance and resources in evidence-based HT practices, THRIVE program leaders and educators can share expertise with other gardens/nature centers, hospitals, and community organizations seeking to serve veterans managing PTSD and other challenges. In this way, ***THRIVE can have cascading positive impacts on the well-being of veterans and other underserved communities across the country, as well as on the educators, care providers, and key stakeholders who are dedicated to serving these communities.***

Project Workplan

The funds from this grant will support a 28-month THRIVE-focused program of work that will begin in September 2024. The proposed program will include four primary activities that will enhance and expand the impact of THRIVE for veterans directly, as well as increase knowledge and awareness of best practices on the benefits of the provision of HT for veterans and underserved, at-risk communities with higher rates of mental health challenges. **The four primary activities are: 1) Sustain HT Interventions for veterans at NYBG in partnership with RWC; 2) Expand programming to THRIVE alumni; 3) Undertake strategic outreach activities; 4) Hold a symposium to increase the knowledge of key stakeholders on HT best practices and strategies.** See below for details on these four activities.

- ***Sustain HT Interventions for Veterans:*** NYBG and RWC will continue to implement THRIVE programming for veterans throughout the year, except the last two weeks of December due to the holidays. The current RWC schedule for veterans allows for four weeks of programming with HT enrichment at the Edible Academy on Mondays. NYBG is closed to the public on Mondays, which provides a quiet and calm atmosphere for the veteran participants. Each Monday, a cohort will visit the Edible Academy campus for a three-hour HT session, for a total of four consecutive sessions with the registered horticultural therapist. Seasonally-based activities will include planting, seed starting, watering, weeding, cooking, and nutrition education. The practice of mindfulness within the garden setting will be emphasized as a tool for stress reduction.

Each month, at the end of a cohort's four HT sessions, there will be a culminating three-hour, weekend celebratory event for the veterans and their families at the Edible Academy, likely to take place on Sundays. This event will include active participation in preparing refreshments and/or snacks, food, cooking, and gardening activities, and will provide the opportunity for participating veterans to share their experiences and strengthen relationships within their families. NYBG will also present each veteran completing the program with a complimentary, one-year family membership to NYBG so that they may continue to receive wellness benefits through NYBG's restorative gardens and program offerings. (Please refer to the IMLS Schedule of Completion attachment).

- ***Alumni Engagement:*** Based on feedback from program graduates, there is a need for programming for alumni that allows past participants to continue to benefit from HT as well as bond with like-minded and experienced colleagues at the RWC. In response, in Phase II NYBG will implement continued opportunities for engagement following the close of HT programming which may include seasonal nature walks occurring in spring, summer, and fall and other activities that create more meaningful connections between the veterans themselves as well as the veterans and nature. These get-togethers, likely two-hours per session, will have the added benefit of building community between cohorts and providing sustained wellness care for a larger group of veterans following the close of programming. This addition to the program also ensures the sustainability of the HT intervention by providing safe spaces for the veterans to continue to connect with

each other as well as the horticultural therapist who can continue to provide care and guidance as needed. The horticultural therapist will guide veterans through NYBG's restorative gardens and wild areas such as the Thain Family Forest and along the Bronx River and participants will practice mindfulness and share experiences in group settings. It is estimated that 100 THRIVE alumni will benefit from this intervention over the project period, increasing the total anticipated primary beneficiaries from approximately 275 to 375.

- **Strategic Outreach:** In order to showcase THRIVE best practices, NYBG will develop a package of outreach materials and collateral, and brief video tutorials for stakeholders of veterans' programs and HT communities. Following the success of the Plant Talk video, the RWC and NYBG staff will work to create 2-3 additional videos that focus on the proven HT practices of THRIVE, providing 5-minute "primers" to other stakeholders who work with high-risk populations. These videos are not meant to be comprehensive tutorials of the HT practices, but brief and descriptive educational overviews for those seeking to incorporate HT with their audiences. These videos would provide methods for contacting HT professionals, including the THRIVE registered horticultural therapist, as well as institutions that provide HT training and mentorship.

In addition, NYBG's marketing and communications team will implement a strategic communications plan in order to increase the visibility of THRIVE on social media and other relevant online platforms using the newly developed outreach materials and collateral. This targeted campaign will be geared toward increasing knowledge about the program and its components, as well as creating a distribution list for the program through an awareness campaign to increase our outreach to key stakeholders, experts, and the general public.

- **Knowledge and Learning:** NYBG will convene a symposium in year two of the project with the aim of creating a shared space for learning for key stakeholders including practitioners, care providers, educators, academics and others focused on key takeaways, program findings and best practices on services that address the health and well-being of high-risk populations, such as veterans. Using the NYBG Arthur Ross Lecture Hall, with a capacity of up to 400, this one-day event will allow for presentations and panel discussions on HT, and interventions for improving the health and wellness of high-risk populations. NYBG has the ability to also include classrooms for break-out sessions for in-depth discussions in smaller working groups. The target audience for these symposia will be staff from other cultural institutions, nature centers, park systems, as well as clinicians and practitioners at veteran's hospitals looking to replicate similar programs. Following the symposium, NYBG will continue to engage the group by hosting webinars for continued learning (likely 2-3) that will take place in the latter half of year two into year three.

Potential Risks: The veteran population is a high-risk group experiencing the challenges and complications born from their time as active-duty military professionals. Therefore, the most significant risk to the project is the stability of the veterans themselves, who may experience a wide range of emotional and mental health challenges, and/or needs ranging from service-related trauma to rehabilitation from physical injury in any given period. Since 2020, NYBG and the RWC have prepared for this risk through THRIVE's attention to the individual needs of the veterans including emotional and mental support, transportation, HT programming and accessible program equipment, and Edible Academy infrastructure such as accessible pathways and raised planting beds.

Ensuring a welcoming environment for people of varying abilities is of primary importance to NYBG. The project team is well versed in and equipped to address the accessibility needs (both physical and mental) of the veteran population for this project. Each year, the Garden provides an inclusive and inviting environment for over one million guests, including many with disabilities both visible and non-visible such as the mental health challenges faced by veteran participants. To further our mission of accessibility, NYBG has an Accessibility Committee dedicated to evaluating and enhancing access to facilities and programs across the organization through improved communication and education. In particular, the Edible Academy plays a critical role in enabling the Garden to serve its diverse community through a variety of inclusive initiatives, programs, and infrastructure.

Project Resources: To successfully implement the THRIVE program, a variety of resources are needed to ensure all identified needs of the veterans are met. NYBG and RWC have both the capacity and the infrastructure in place to deliver on the project, the most critical being: The Edible Academy garden in which the majority of programming takes place, the NYBG grounds which will enable alumni engagement and programming in Phase II, expertise on staff to undertake the development of high-quality collateral materials, Ross Hall which will act as the venue for an on-site symposium with the learning and practitioner community, and the programming provided by RWC which also identifies and recruits veterans who are in need of these types of therapeutic services.

In addition, the project team consists of a cross-departmental group of NYBG experts and external practitioners with complementary skill sets ensuring a strong foundation for programmatic success. The project team will be led by Dr. James Boyer, Vice President for Children’s Education and Senior Director of Education, who will administer the project. Dr. Boyer will also serve as the Project Director. An Advisory Committee of RWC staff and VA hospital experts will provide guidance to the Project Team. Dr. Boyer and Toby Adams, Director of the Edible Academy, will serve as the main conduits for coordination between RWC staff, the Edible Academy staff, and the Horticultural Therapist. (Please see attachment “Projectstaff” for more detailed biographies.) The Project Team will be led by:

- **James Boyer, Ph.D.,** *Stavros Niarchos Foundation Vice President for Children’s Education and Senior Director of Education*, and Project Director. Dr. Boyer is responsible for directing and managing all aspects of the Garden’s educational facilities, including the Edible Academy.
- **Toby Adams, Gregory L. Long** *Director of the Edible Academy*, is responsible for site management, daily operations, programming, and supervision of staff and volunteers at the complex.
- **Anne Meore, LMSW, HTR,** *Licensed Master Social Worker*, is a Registered Horticultural Therapist. She will implement THRIVE with veterans supported by Brooke Lorenzetti.
- **Ariel Handelman, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Audience Strategy**, oversees all digital platforms, including NYBG’s website, email, and social media networks, and works closely with the Edible Academy to share engaging content and awareness of their work with the Bronx Community and its impact.
- **Monique McClenton, Social Scientist at the James J. Peters Veterans Health Administration**, is responsible for the coordination of the Resilience and Wellness Center program and the liaison between NYBG and the hospital for the THRIVE program. Ms. McClenton will serve as a Project Advisor.
- **Fatemeh Haghighi, Ph.D., Professor of Neuroscience and the Director of the Laboratory of Medical Epigenetics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**, is responsible for evaluating the impact of the THRIVE program on the veteran participants. Dr. Haghighi will serve as a Project Advisor.

Tracking Progress: Ultimately, the project team seeks to improve the health and well-being of veterans in the Bronx community through HT interventions, engagement with nature, and companionship. Throughout the lifetime of the grant, the project team will undertake and review ongoing assessments with the veterans and make changes to the activities in response to program feedback. In addition, NYBG will work with RWC to evaluate the pre-and-post-session mental health checks to determine the efficacy of the programming and identify areas for improvement. Please see attached Performance Measurement chart for more details.

Project Results

This project’s ultimate aim is to enhance the well-being of veterans through its THRIVE program by increasing access to innovative therapeutic care practices such as HT and other nature-focused restorative activities at the Garden’s 250-acre facility, located in the Bronx. Specific goals of the project include:

- Reduce stress, depression, physical pain, and loneliness, and improve overall life satisfaction through the promotion of emotional wellness in natural settings and through the use of HT interventions.
- Increase knowledge of HT best practices for underserved communities, including veterans, through strategic communications and robust learning engagement activities.

To track the progress and impact of the THRIVE program on participating veterans, the RWC staff have developed measures to study the program's impact on improving the health of each cohort rather than for each individual participant. In support of these measures, the project team will seek to assess the progress and effectiveness of the services delivered throughout the project period through the following three methods, which build from the existing THRIVE framework from Phase I (and is outlined in the Meore *et al.* 2021 article):

- RWC staff will assess participants' wellness each week through self-reported scoring for various symptoms, such as stress, depressed mood, physical pain, and social isolation. Veterans will be asked to indicate their symptom ratings before and after each THRIVE session, to assess the immediate and long-term impact of the HT sessions.
- NYBG staff will continue to conduct qualitative assessments with the participating veterans through the collection of testimonials to assess the authentic mental and emotional impact of the program not captured through quantitative measures.
- The project team will also ask the veterans to complete a survey at the close of their participation in the program. The survey will collect feedback on HT practices, activities, and other key elements of the program. The veteran's responses will be carefully reviewed by the project team and the curriculum/set of activities will be adjusted for future cohorts in response.

THRIVE aims to positively impact both primary and secondary beneficiaries through changes in behavior, physicality and attitude, as well as strengthen knowledge and skills of the wider community of key stakeholders in the following ways:

- Primary beneficiaries of participating veterans: Anticipated outcomes include reduced stress and depression, increased social connections with colleagues and family, reduced physical pain, and increased comfort in natural settings. THRIVE may also provide secondary benefits such as building self-confidence and creative self-expression, raising self-esteem, in addition to learning gardening skills and improving nutrition habits.
- Secondary beneficiaries including HT practitioners and veteran stakeholders outside the Bronx. Anticipated outcomes include greater visibility of THRIVE outside of the New York City area and increased awareness of the demonstrated benefits of HT for veterans and high-risk populations. In addition, the project aims to increase learning on HT best practices in order to encourage adoption at other similar institutions that seek to engage underserved populations across the U.S.

Project Products: Through the proposed project, NYBG will create a replicable program for other cultural institutions, VA hospitals, nature centers, and/or parks looking to reach veteran populations with wellness opportunities and resources that can provide mental and physical healing through HT and therapeutic gardening practices. Tangible results of the project include the following and are associated with the relevant primary activity described above:

1. **Sustain HT Interventions for Veterans:** NYBG will continue to improve and expand the HT model in THRIVE with the potential to decrease stress and physical pain, and enhance mood, social interactions, and overall wellbeing. Activities will include working with plants and soil in gardening beds, potting up seedlings in an EA classroom setting, and taking sensory walks through the grounds to actively engage participants with the natural environment.
 - Products will include: an outline of recommended activities for HT intervention programs on a weekly basis; pre- and post-surveys that can be replicated by other institutions; lists of relevant supplies and materials required to implement a success HT program; a collection of literature on HT, its benefits, and recommendations for implementation.

Phase II of the THRIVE initiative will also begin a planning phase for an anticipated Phase III, which will include the development of a formal educational curriculum focused on HT interventions and practices for underserved communities, based on the THRIVE program implemented at NYBG.

2. **Alumni Engagement:** In Phase II of THRIVE, the project team will engage interested alumni who wish to continue HT engagement on NYBG grounds. Results of this newly added element to the initiative will be incorporated into the list of products outlined under the activity above, providing a more holistic overview of the needs of veterans as they actively engage in HT interventions, graduate from the programs, and seek to maintain connections with both the caregivers and community after the programs have ended.
 - Product: assessment of continued engagement activities, their effectiveness, and applicability to the full suite of HT care for veterans.
3. **Strategic Outreach:** Working with the NYBG Marketing team, THRIVE will create a series of new videos and resources targeting key audiences and stakeholders who seek to learn more about and possibly replicate this HT program. These videos and resources will be shared through the NYBG marketing team on social media and other channels to increase the visibility of THRIVE both within the Bronx service delivery community, the wider New York metropolitan area, and across the U.S. These materials will also be made available at the symposium (see below and above) as well as during the webinars that NYBG plans to host later in year two and year three (see below).
 - Product: two to three videos, digital resources, THRIVE webpage
4. **Knowledge and Learning:** The primary deliverable from this activity is the symposium in year two following by the subsequent webinars for continued learning and engagement throughout the remainder of the project period. Recordings and learnings from the symposium and webinars will be easily accessible and free-of-charge to the community through the NYBG website and new THRIVE resource webpage. Recordings of the THRIVE symposia will be uploaded to YouTube and linked to the NYBG webpage for easy free access.

In addition to the symposium, NYBG staff, the consulting horticulture therapist, and RWC staff will submit proposals for presentations at national and local conferences which may include the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA), Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD), Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Therapy Network (MAHTN), Military Social Work & Behavioral Health (MSW&BH), New York State Suicide Prevention (NYSSP), and the Veterans Mental Health Conference (VMHC) through the National Association of Social Workers.

Product: One symposium, two to three webinars following the symposium, presentations at professional conferences throughout the project period.

Project Sustainability: NYBG is committed to continuing the THRIVE program after the grant funding period. To sustain the program, we will pursue new grant, government, and donor funding sources. We also plan to apply for an IMLS National Leadership Grant following the completion of this grant in order to formally begin the process of increasing partnerships with other institutions across the country to implement the THRIVE model. This will require identifying other possible institutions that may have burgeoning capacity to implement THRIVE, identifying other Veteran's Affairs Hospitals that would be open to partnership and identifying veterans in need of services, and ensuring the landscape is such that this program could be meaningfully implemented in other locations outside of NYBG. The process of beginning to identify these partner institutions will begin in Phase II (proposed project period). In addition, Dr. Boyer anticipates that Phase III will include the development of a formal curriculum for THRIVE that will be fully accessible to key stakeholders interested in adopting this program, as well as replicable across institutions. By sharing our best practices and expanding THRIVE through new partnerships and curriculum development, we hope to create lasting impacts on veterans across the country.

NYBG

Phase II: Sustaining and Broadening the Therapeutic Horticulture and Rehabilitative Interventions for Veteran Engagement (THRIVE) Program

Digital Products Plan

The following is an overview of how the THRIVE project team will manage the digital products produced as part of this initiative as described in four sections: type, availability, access and sustainability.

Type: Phase II of the THRIVE program aims to provide online access to resources and instructional videos created by the project team for stakeholders of high-risk populations such as veterans. In addition, this grant will generate presentations and panel discussions during a symposium in Year 2 of the grant, which will be recorded by NYBG, and may generate other materials and resources.

Availability: The THRIVE program will have a dedicated webpage on the NYBG website (nybg.org) with the purpose of sharing information about the program and best practices to others. The THRIVE landing page will be new in Phase II, and it will provide free and open access to the digitized materials, such as the aforementioned videos and online resources of tutorials, presentations, collateral materials and panel discussions.

Access: Digital products produced by the project will be available to the public for the purpose of learning about HT practices for high risk populations. Videos will include accessibility features for the hearing- and visually-impaired communities. In addition, these videos and resources will include Spanish translations.

In order to publicize the new online resources to partner organizations, veterans, and the general public, the NYBG marketing staff will improve discoverability of resources through metadata, tags, transcriptions, and search engine optimization.

Sustainability: We will maintain these digital materials on the NYBG servers that support the Garden's webpages and resources. These webpages are frequently backed-up and duplicated to prevent loss of data hosted on the servers. In addition, the THRIVE webpage will continue to grow and evolve over time, with new materials added as needed and relevant including, an eventual curriculum for horticultural therapy programming that the team anticipates developing as part of Phase III of THRIVE. It is important that the materials generated in Phase II of THRIVE are accessible to all audiences both throughout the life of the grant and beyond, and the webpage and the accessibility of the digital products will be key to that effort.