



GrowingGreat selected by National Institutes of Health to deliver nutrition & STEM education to early childhood centers in Los Angeles

[GrowingGreat](#) is now a subcontractor on a [Science Education Partnership Award \(SEPA\)](#) award from the [National Institute of General Medical Sciences \(NIGMS\)](#) at the NIH for the [Seeds to STEM](#) program.

Seeds to STEM is an innovative, research-based, bilingual program in both Los Angeles and Philadelphia which works with educators, families and children ages 3-5 to promote early science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills, literacy and nutrition to help prepare children for kindergarten. The program is offered free of charge in under-resourced neighborhoods.

Over the five years of the SEPA-funded Seeds to STEM grant, GrowingGreat, along with their partners at the [Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia](#), will deliver the following:

- An inquiry-based curriculum about early childhood nutrition and kindergarten readiness that integrates STEM, literacy and numeracy learning through experimental activities growing food inside classrooms, urban gardens and family homes
- Professional development and in-class coaching for accredited and under-accredited pre-K educators, including home-based care providers
- Programs that empower families to learn together, understand kindergarten readiness and become more connected to health and nutrition resources in their communities

Jennifer Jovanovic, Executive Director for GrowingGreat, is a strong proponent of the program and its mission: "At GrowingGreat, we believe every community should have access to healthy produce and all children should experience the joy of growing fruit and vegetables in their own garden," she said. "We are thrilled to expand our reach to preschoolers and their caregivers and forge new partnerships with schools in Los Angeles."

GrowingGreat's mission is to empower children to make healthy food choices through hands-on science and garden education. A nonprofit founded in 1999, they reach over 15,000 young people each year both in Los Angeles and through partnerships nationwide.

If you are interested in joining the Seeds to STEM program or would like any additional information, please reach out to GrowingGreat at info@growinggreat.org.