

Garden project lands a grant for homeless

Sentinel staff report

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SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz Homeless Garden Project will be able to recruit 24 homeless men and women for the program as a result of a \$305,972 grant.

The AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National Service was announced Wednesday by Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel.

The 24 AmeriCorps members will receive a monthly living stipend during their work with the Garden Project. Upon completion of their work, they will receive a \$4,800 education award that can be used at accredited educational institutions, including four-year universities, community colleges and vocational schools.

“Since its inception in 1990, the Homeless Garden Project has provided a number of homeless the opportunity to build self-confidence and learn valuable workplace skills. ‘Graduates’ of the program have gone on to permanent positions in full-time jobs or started their own businesses,” Farr said.

Participants gain agricultural skills and farming experience and learn basic marketing techniques.

They will work with six Santa Cruz school gardens and mentor at-risk youth through involvement in garden activities.

“I’m also extremely pleased to know that participants will be sharing their experiences and newly acquired knowledge with the community,” Farr said. “The benefits from this program will reach every corner of our community.”