



**City announces newest Dayton Recovery Plan award**  
-\$25,000 to support youth empowerment by the Hope Road Organization-

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The City of Dayton announces the newest investment of Dayton Recovery Plan funds following approval of a contract by the City Commission on Dec. 21. An award of \$25,000 to the Hope Road Organization will be used to purchase land and supplies for the Grow to Live gardening program.

Hope Road uses art and nature to provide support, character and skills development, and empowerment to young people in the city of Dayton. As part of that work, Hope Road will purchase two lots, at 729 and 731 Ward St.

The award will provide funding to put the properties into productive use by planting new trees and installing seating, trash cans, a shelter house, and more. Funds will also be used to purchase needed equipment such as a tiller and mower, and gardening tools.

In 10 years of service, the Hope Road Organization has worked with the youth of Dayton and observed the patterns and trends of underserved youth and their families. This work confirms what the Youth Development Network reports: "For the last four decades, our nation has been trying to resolve youth problems—academic failure, drug use, teen pregnancy, juvenile crime, lack of workforce readiness and more." Knowing the need for community response, Hope Road organized community members to help youth positively respond to these challenges and offer information and skills to help them navigate adolescence in a low socio-economic environment.

The Dayton Recovery Plan is a \$138 million framework for community COVID relief and investment for the future, made possible by the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Funding for project will be provided through the Dayton Recovery Plan's \$7.3 million Aiding Community and Small Business Recovery component. This section of the plan focuses on supporting community health and wellness, assisting small businesses and organizations, and providing educational opportunities.

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