

## Leading Age Florida, Eldergrow Awarded \$1m To Launch Therapeutic Gardening Program for Dozens of Facilities.



Isolation and loneliness are two of the effects imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. There seems to be an alternative to helping the LTC residents combat these adverse effects of COVID-19, and the answer, according to the Leading Age Florida, is in gardening. The gardening program termed "Eldergrow horticulture program" has also found support even in unseemingly places- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 4 office and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

CMS and AHCA have awarded 22 nursing homes across Florida a total of \$1 million civil monetary penalty grant to help build a national gardening program for their residents. The announcement was made on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, by LeadingAge Florida and Eldergrow.

Eldergrow's horticulture program is designed to bring indoors gardening for residents to enjoy. Eldergrow's services include mobile gardens for long-term care facilities and educators to teach seniors about gardening. They also have subscription-based products and programming.

Orla Concannon, the founder, and CEO in describing why the program asserts, "These individuals were like you and me once, with busy, full-time jobs and families to raise. Now, they have less to do, and a garden actually gives them hope and purpose." She claims that Horticultural therapy can help reduce depression while enhancing mood and sleep, improve coordination and self-esteem, and lower the risk factors for dementia. Orla Concannon affirms that caregivers have already seen early progress in reducing agitation and exit-seeking behaviors in one memory care community here in Florida.

To read more about this program and the article that published it please visit: -

<https://www.mcknights.com/news/gardening-therapy-blooms-with-provider-vendor-pact/>

<https://www.mcknights.com/news/the-brighter-side/leadingage-florida-eldergrow-awarded-1m-to-launch-therapeutic-gardening-program-for-dozens-of-facilities/>