

# Spending MG Funds

## Opportunities and Challenges

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

# Meeting Protocols

- Everyone muted during presentation portion.
- You may chat questions to “Q&A Facilitator.”
- Once presentation is concluded, we will call on individuals who “Raise Hand” and address questions from the Chat.
- As always, the Code of Conduct applies.



# Purpose of the Meeting

- Describe the purpose of the Funds Management Team
- Share what we learned while doing our work
- Share some of the survey results
- Hear from you - the MG volunteer - before making recommendations



# What is the Funds Management Team?



# Status of MGCC Funds



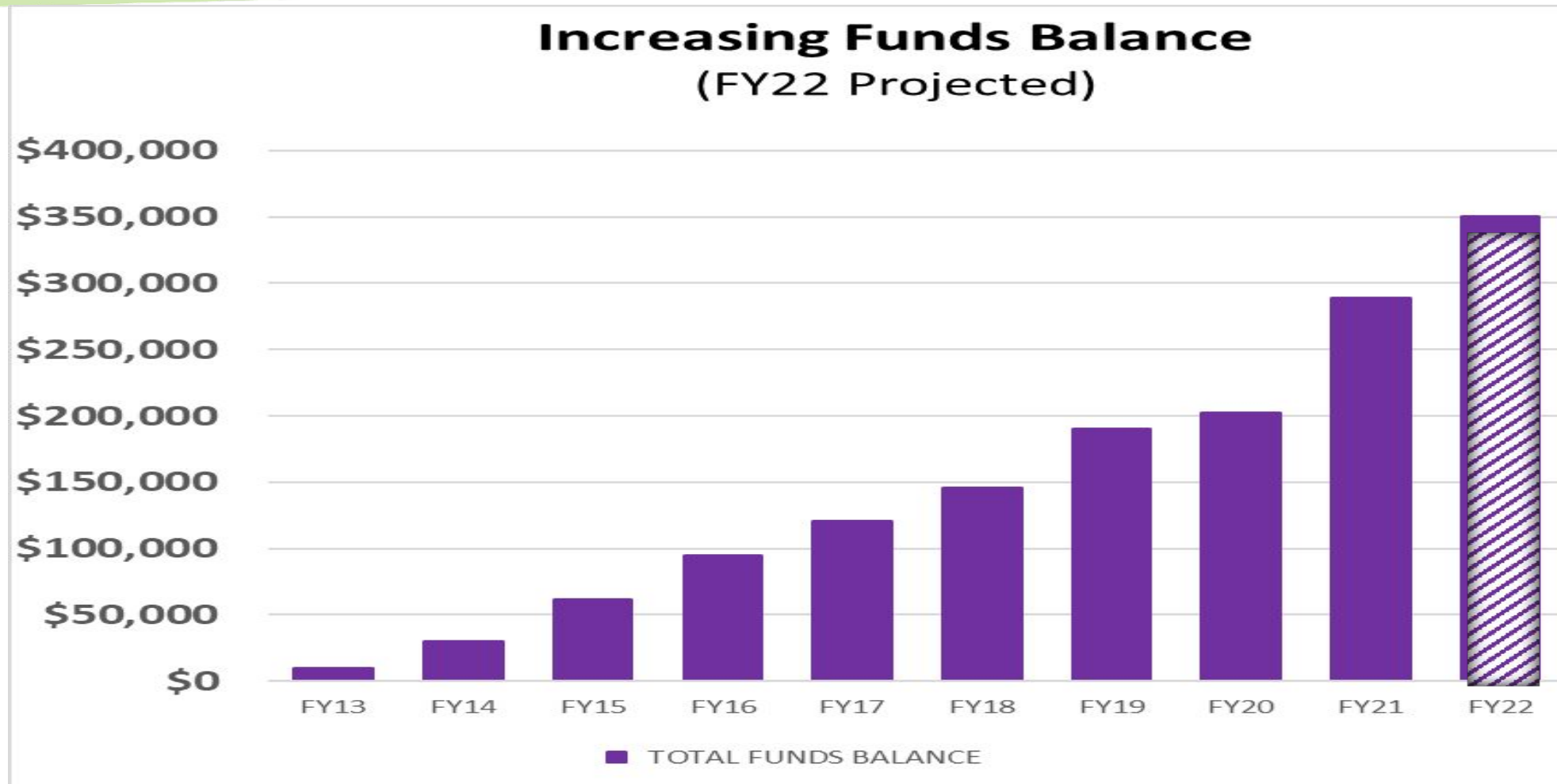
\$281,319  
at Fiscal Year End 2021

Plus 2022 GTPS Income





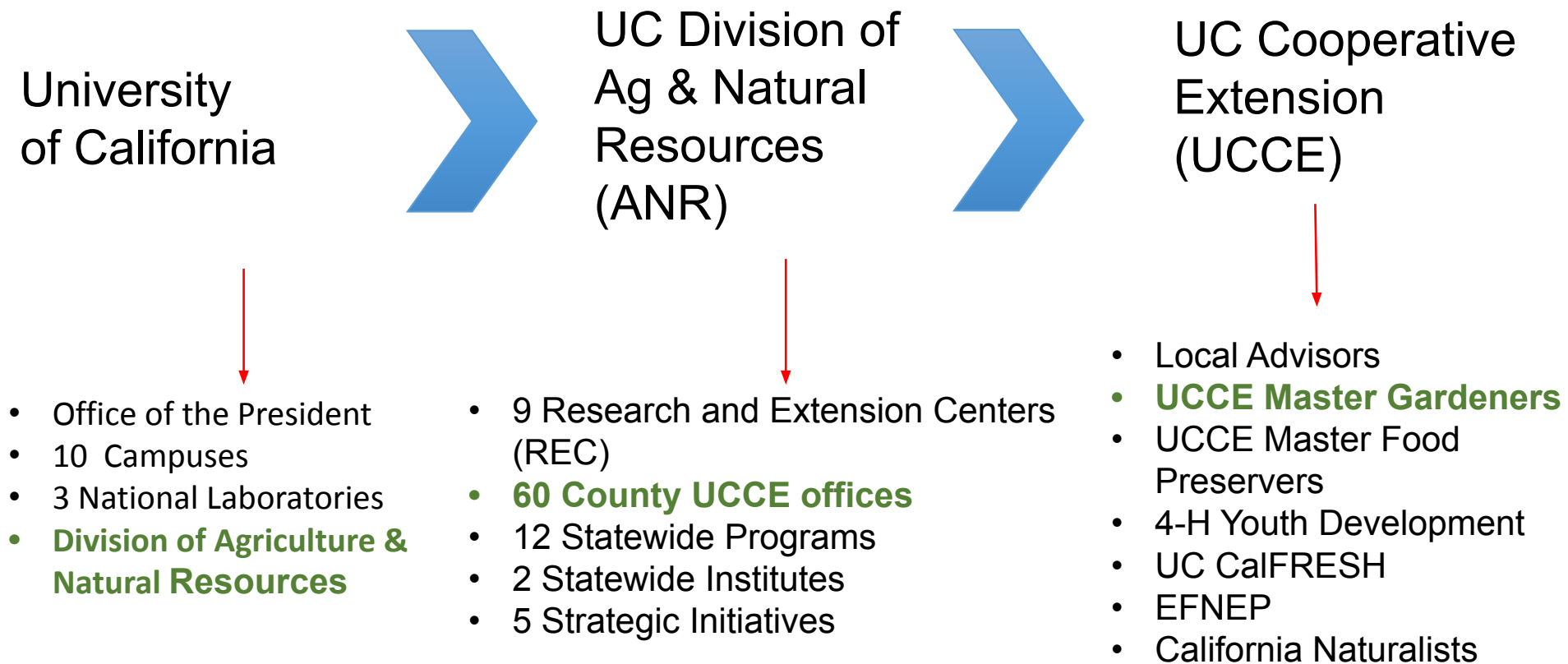
# FUNDS BALANCE HISTORY



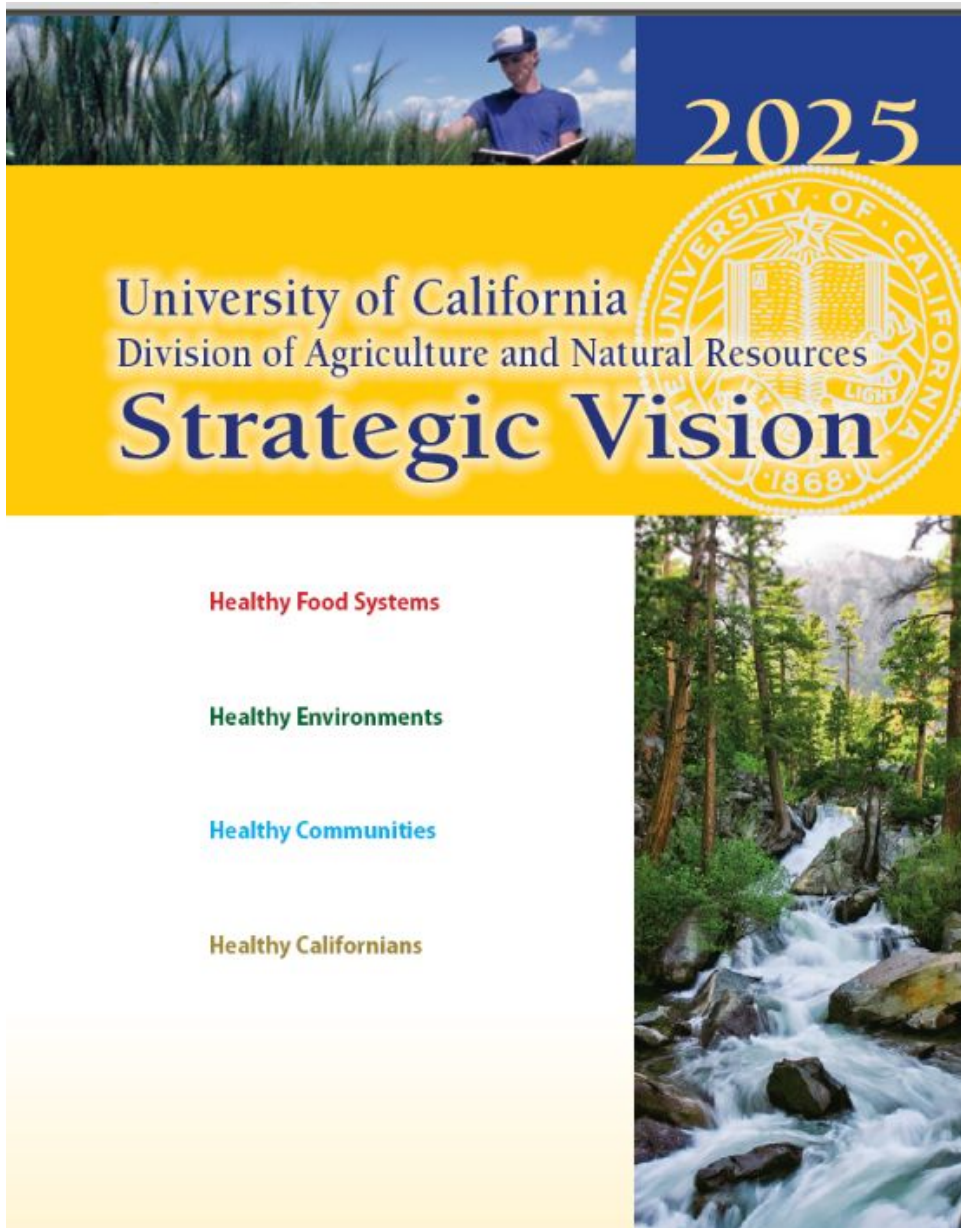
# Some Discoveries



# UC Master Gardener Program is part of a wider mission







# Spending must reflect the Strategic Initiatives

1. Endemic and invasive pests and diseases
2. Healthy families and communities
3. Sustainable food systems
4. Sustainable natural ecosystems
5. Water quality, quantity and security



# Spending must reflect the Mission Statement

“To extend research based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives.”



# What does being part of UCANR provide us?

- Administrative & Program Staff (including Dawn!)
- Accounting, Procurement, and Cash Management
- Access to UCCE Advisors & Specialists
- UCANR & VMS Portal
- MGCC Hosted Website
- Office Facilities and Equipment





# More things our Committee has learned



Spending must be for the benefit of the  
UC Master Gardener Program –  
largely in Contra Costa County





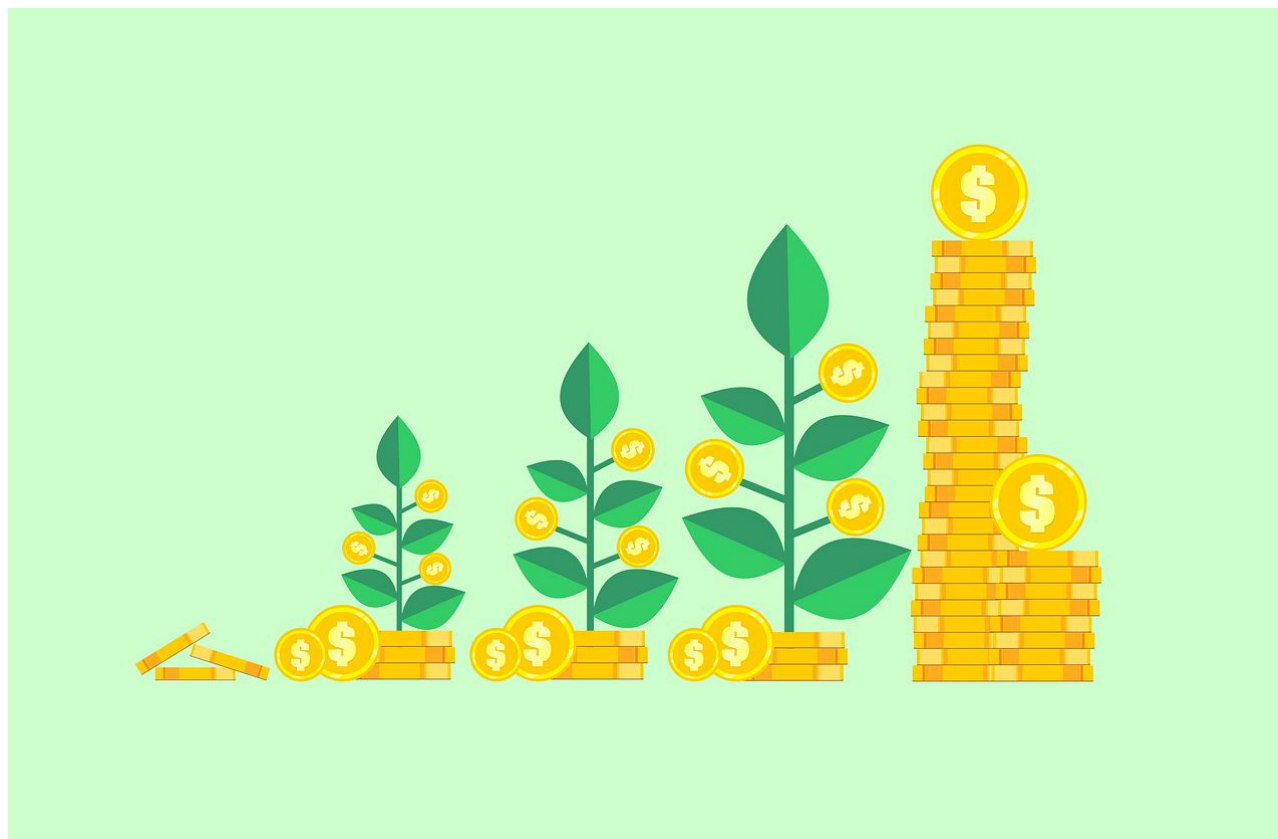
It's a good idea to put a ceiling on our spending.

And to keep a “reserve” of \$50,000 for a rainy day.



Creating an  
endowment for  
CCMG doesn't  
make sense





Spending the remaining estimated \$300,000 is a significant undertaking

And we have an opportunity to make a large impact



**We sought  
MG volunteer  
input on how  
to spend the  
money**



# Where do you want us to spend the funds?

## *Survey findings:*

What sort of spending do you think our organization should do?

65% = Operating expenses that expand existing projects

21% = Capital expenses for new or existing projects

What sort of spending matches your personal interests?

54% = Project expenses that invest in our community (outward)

31% = Capital expenses for ourselves or community





# If we started new programs, what would you want?

## *Survey findings:*

**26%** = Development of a new Junior Master Gardener program

**21%** = Statewide expansion of Growing Gardeners

**20%** = Implementation of a fire education statewide program

**18%** = Development of a new horticultural therapy program

**15%** = Other ideas that were shared



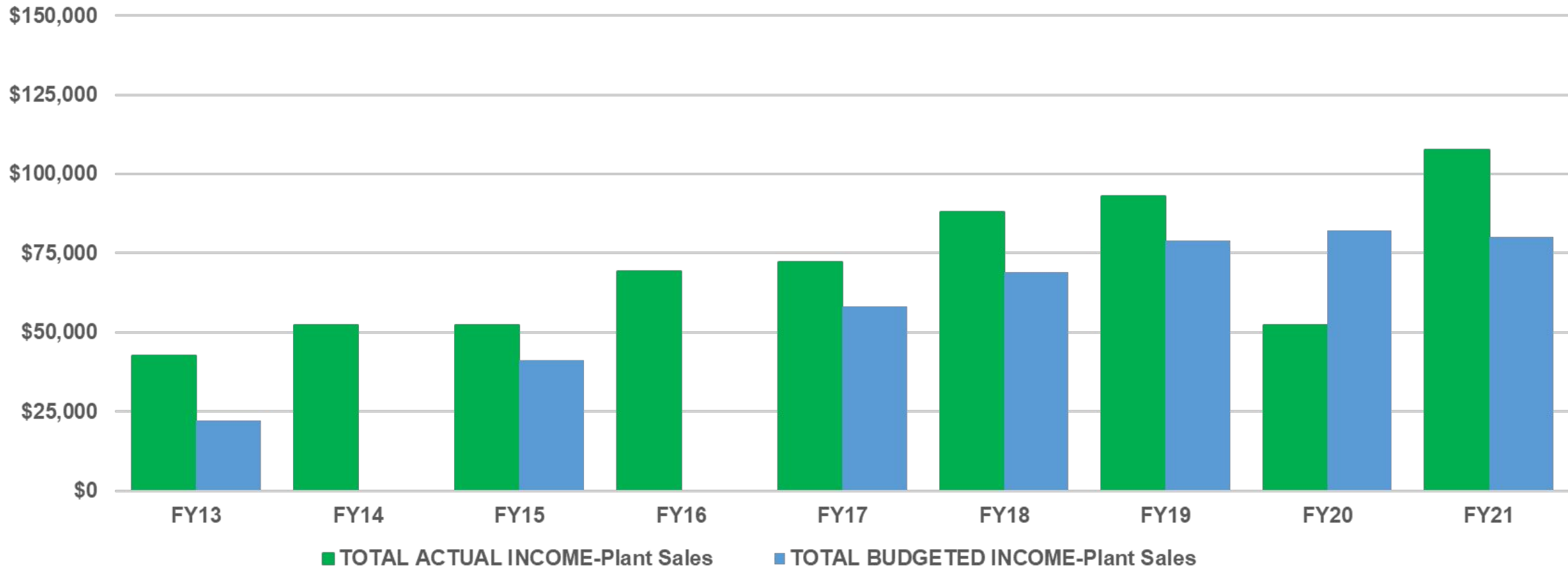
**How can we  
expand  
spending  
when we  
don't even  
spend what  
we budget?**



# PLANT SALES: ACTUAL & BUDGETED

*Proceeds are consistently greater than budgeted*

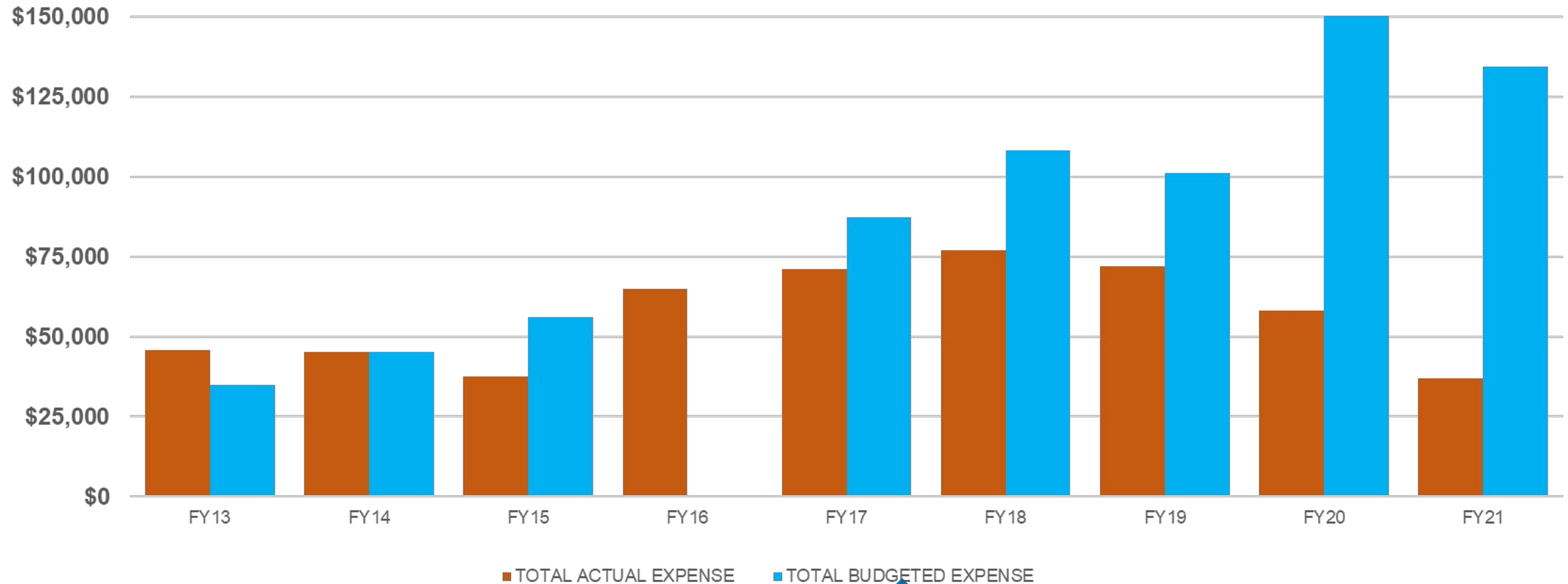
Actual and Budget Income-Plant Sales



# EXPENSES: ACTUAL & BUDGETED

***Budget is consistently underspent***

Actual and Budget Expense-TOTAL



**What keeps  
MGs from  
spending  
this  
surplus?**





# Challenges to Spending

- Mismatch between program needs and volunteer interest
  - Project leadership
- Imbalance between paid staff and #s of volunteers
- Don't know what can be purchased.
- UC constraints on spending for capital improvements, various services – navigating UC approval process
- Procurement and reimbursement process
- Personal aversion to spending MG funds



# Ideas to Facilitate Spending

- Make the spending and reimbursement process more *accessible*
- Address leadership challenge.  
Ex: Create a support staff position or paid internship to help manage administrative tasks including purchases and distribution to project teams



# More Ideas to Facilitate Spending

- **Reduce** the surplus fund balance *before* it becomes a surplus  
Ex: Donate seedlings BEFORE the sale
- **Expand** the supplies that are pre-selected and delivered to volunteers
- **Stock** items at the MG Office (or locations throughout the County), for pick-up by volunteers
- Your ideas???



# Open Forum: Let's Hear from YOU

