Youth horticulture programming at ICG and out in the community is made possible through a contractual relationship between ICG and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

ICG's education team includes CCE educators who provide leadership to youth horticulture programming and train ICG educators, both at ICG and out in the community. The community at large is able to benefit from this special collaboration: Ithaca Children's Garden provides a unique living laboratory for youth horticulture outreach and education, and contracts with CCE to provide educational leadership in the form of conception, development, delivery, and evaluation of research-based education and programming. This special relationship allows the most innovative and emergent research-based practices to be piloted and supported here in Tompkins County.

In addition to direct youth horticultural education through this contract relationship, ICG also serves as a living laboratory and outreach space for other Cornell and Cornell Cooperative Extension programs including:

- Cornell Garden-Based Learning
- Cornell Plant Science classes
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- CCE Master Gardeners Program
- CCE Master Composters Program
- Cornell Botanical Gardens
- CCE Rural Youth Services Program