

Community Garden Mini Grants Spring 2021



This mini grant opportunity is provided by United Way of Central Iowa in partnership with Eat Greater Des Moines. United Way of Central Iowa established a goal to improve the health of our community. One of the strategies for accomplishing this is to increase the availability of and access to healthy foods and fresh fruits and vegetables. The mission of Eat Greater Des Moines is to identify, develop, and connect resources with the broader community to support the entire food lifecycle in central Iowa. United Way of Central Iowa is serving as the administrator and funder of the grants process with expert guidance and support from Eat Greater Des Moines and Sweet Tooth Farm.

Eligibility

Applicants for the mini grants must be located in Polk, Dallas, or Warren County and serve the community as a nonprofit organization. For purposes of this funding, a **community garden** is defined as an area of land managed and maintained by a group of individuals to grow and harvest food crops for non-retail, personal or group use, consumption or donation. Community gardens may be divided into separate plots for cultivation by one or more individuals or may be farmed collectively by members of the group and may include common areas maintained and used by group members. For purposes of this funding, the garden cannot be used for retail or job training programs and cannot be promoted as a corporate giving garden.

New and existing community gardens are eligible to apply. Priority is placed on gardens that serve communities with limited access to healthy foods, such as high poverty or food desert neighborhoods. If awarded, the awardee will be required to report food production either on a monthly or end-of-season basis by pounds or count.

Guidelines

- Must be a community garden located in Polk, Dallas or Warren County
- Funding may be used for a new or existing garden
- Request can be made up to \$600. A maximum of \$13,000 in grants will be awarded.
- Allowable expenses include:
 - irrigation supplies
 - water meter fees
 - signage
 - Vertical garden supplies
 - Fencing
 - Raised garden bed supplies.
 - Greenhouse kits
 - Hoop house supplies
 - Other necessary items related to the infrastructure of the garden.
 - Cost sharing & bulk ordering opportunities for community garden partners will be available for additional savings on the below items:
 - hand tools
 - soil amendment compost
 - ground cover
 - seeds and starters
- Funding will be reimbursed for purchases and/or vendors will be paid directly. Wages are not reimbursable.
- Awardees will be required to report food production either on a monthly or end-of-season basis by pounds or count (assistance will be available)
- Eligible funding will be released as soon as March 23, 2021 and no later than June 30, 2021
- A virtual information and technical assistance session will be held January 28, 2021 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Call in to the information session by dialing: (872) 240-3311, Access Code: 487-992-733
 - Join from your computer/tablet/smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/487992733>

Community Garden Mini Grants Spring 2021 Application



- New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/487992733>

Apply: Complete the application (*limit to three pages total*) and return by 5:00 PM on **Monday, February 22** to:

Jessica Nelsen
Community Impact Coordinator, Health
United Way of Central Iowa
1111 9th Street, Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50314
Jessica.nelsen@UnitedWayDM.org

Application Deadline: 5:00 PM on February 22, 2021

Submit To: Jessica Nelsen
Jessica.nelsen@unitedwaydm.org

Instructions: Complete the following information and answer questions 1-7. Limit your total submission to 3 pages.

Organization Name:

Garden Name:

Garden Address:

County:

EIN # of Applying Organization (if applicable):

Contact person:

Phone:

Email:

Amount Requested:

- 1) Detail the geographic location of the garden, the size, the community which it serves, and if it is a new or existing garden.
- 2) Describe the organizations and individuals involved in the planning, funding and maintenance of the garden. Include a description of how volunteers are recruited and how food is distributed.
- 3) Detail any educational activities related to the garden. How do people learn about the food being grown and how to prepare and eat it?

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4) Describe, specifically, what the funding will be used for and provide a timeline for the project using the template below.

Garden Activity	Date of Completion	Person(s) Responsible

5) Describe the intended outcomes of the garden project and what benefits the garden will bring to the community it serves.

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6) Complete the budget spreadsheet, including any other funding sources for the project:

Budget Item	Amount	Comments
Equipment	\$	
Irrigation Supplies	\$	
Water Meter / Fees	\$	
Seeds / Planting	\$	
Landscaping	\$	
Scales	\$	
Signage	\$	
Other (please describe in Comments)	\$	
TOTAL	\$	
UWCI Request	\$	
Other Funding Sources (Please list under Comments)	\$	

7. Have you received a United Way Community Garden Mini Grant in the past? If yes, describe your reporting on garden yields.

Questions? Contact Jessica Nelsen, Community Impact Coordinator, Health at (515) 201-8688 or jessica.nelsen@unitedwaydm.org