

Community Garden Mini Grants Spring 2022



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 \$1,000.
- Allowable expenses include:
 - Irrigation supplies
 - Harvest tools and packing supplies/materials
 - Water hydrant meter fees
 - Signage
 - Vertical garden supplies
 - Fencing
 - Raised garden bed supplies.
 - Trellis materials
 - Greenhouse kits
 - Hoop house supplies
 - Water retention systems (barrels and elevated platforms for containers)
 - Compost and compost delivery
 - Community education events and materials
 - Other necessary items related to the infrastructure of the garden.
- 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, 2022 and no later than May 1, 2022
- Two virtual information and technical assistance sessions will be held via Zoom on January 4th from 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM and January 6th at 4:00 PM- 5:00 PM.

Community Garden Mini Grants Spring 2022 Application



- Register for January 4th session: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZElf-Grpz8uHdGc7YOhnzNpxlzDpB72NDxc>
- Register for the January 6th session: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvd-GqqD0sHN0eNdeji0i883U-ajluXsEy>

Apply: Complete the application *via UWCI Foundant grant management system* and submit by 5:00 PM on **Wednesday, February 9**

For questions on the grant submission process reach out to:

John Soener
John.Soener@unitedwaydm.org

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?
- 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

Community Garden Mini Grants Spring 2022 Application



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

- 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)	\$	

Any other justification of budget request notes or comments:

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