

# Community Garden Mini Grants Spring 2024



This mini grant opportunity is provided by United Way of Central Iowa. 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. United Way of Central Iowa is serving as the administrator and funder of the grants process with expert guidance from our Essential Needs Cabinet and community partners.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants for the mini grants must be located in Polk, Dallas, or Warren County and serve the community as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or government entity. 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:
  - Seeds
  - Plants
  - Irrigation supplies
  - Harvest tools and packing supplies/materials
  - Water hydrant meter fees
  - Signage
  - Hoop house supplies
  - Other necessary items related to the infrastructure of the garden
  - Vertical garden supplies
  - Fencing
  - Raised garden bed supplies
  - Trellis materials
  - Greenhouse kits
  - Community education events and materials
  - Compost and compost delivery
  - Water retention systems (barrels and elevated platforms for containers)
- Funding will be awarded in the form of a one-time check payment upon receipt of a signed contract.
- Awardees will be required to report food production or estimations either on a monthly or end-of-season basis by pounds or count.
- Eligible funding will be released to awardees upon receipt of a signed contract no later than June 30, 2024.

**Apply:** Complete the application via [UWCI Foundant grant management system](https://www.unitedwaydm.org/gardens-rfp), use access code: *garden2024* and submit by 5:00 PM on **Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. For questions on the grant submission process review the **Informational and Technical Assistance** recording a [www.unitedwaydm.org/gardens-rfp](https://www.unitedwaydm.org/gardens-rfp).

## **Contact Info:**

- **Eligibility Questions:** Diana Echeverria, Community Impact Manager, [diana.echeverria@unitedwaydm.org](mailto:diana.echeverria@unitedwaydm.org)
- **Foundant Support:** John Soener, Community Investment Manager, [john.soener@unitedwaydm.org](mailto:john.soener@unitedwaydm.org)

# Community Garden Mini Grants

## Spring 2024 Application



**Disclaimer:** This document is for reference ONLY, please submit all applications through [UWCI Foundant grant management system](#).

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 the action plan and timeline for developing and executing your garden.  
**Note:** complete in bulleted format and include the date of completion and person responsible for each activity.
- 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)	\$	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>UWCI Request</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Other Funding Sources (Please list under Comments)</b>	<b>\$</b>	

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.