

Urban Agriculture Working Group Community Garden Grant Program

With support from the Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF) and the City of Rochester, the Urban Agriculture Working Group (UAWG) is excited to offer a funding opportunity to Rochester's community gardens. The purpose of this grant opportunity is to assist community garden groups in purchasing tools and materials for their community gardens. This program is open to any community garden group within the City of Rochester that has successfully maintained a community garden for at least 2 growing seasons.

The UAWG will be awarding six to eight, \$250-\$500 grants. These grants will be awarded in the form of a purchasing credit with the City of Rochester's Department of Recreation and Youth Services. If your community garden is selected to receive a grant, you will work with a DRYs representative to order supplies and materials for your garden. Grant money can be utilized to purchase the following types of items: topsoil, perennial plant material, vegetable seedlings, annual plants, tools/equipment, lumber for raised beds, and other supplies that benefit your community garden.

Beyond simply providing financial support to gardens, the Urban Agriculture Working Group's intention in offering this grant opportunity includes a desire to:

- **Nurture The Grant Seeking Capacity Among Community Gardens.** We know that finding and applying for money can be confusing and intimidating. If you've never applied for a grant before, we hope that this process helps you develop the skills and confidence necessary to go out and pursue other funding opportunities. We are here to help you through the process- so PLEASE don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions related to the application process.
- **Build A Strong Community Garden Movement in Rochester.** Community gardening is growing in Rochester, and the Urban Agriculture Working Group is dedicated to supporting and strengthening new and existing community garden leaders in the City of Rochester. Gardens that receive a grant through this process are required to have a representative from your garden join the Urban Agriculture Working Group. Participation in the UAWG can include: attending monthly meetings, helping with future events, working on research, and/or vetting future applications for funding.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application process is easy! Please complete the questions below and include a photo of your garden (**TIP:** funders, not just us, LOVE to see pictures of people working in community gardens!). Please email the completed application to both startdigging@rocurbangardens.org and scotts@cityofrochester.gov. If you don't have access to email, snail mail is cool, too! Send a paper copy of your application to:

Attention: UAWG Community Garden Grant

400 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14613

If you're emailing your application, please make sure to send it before 11:59 p.m. on MAY 1st. If you're snail-mailing your application, it must be postmarked by MAY 1st. . As a courtesy to fellow community gardeners, late applications will NOT be considered.

Decisions about grant awards will be made and notifications will be sent to community garden groups by May 25, 2016.

GRANT APPLICATION:

*Please answer all questions in this application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

1. **Garden Name:**
2. **Garden Address/Location:**
3. **Sponsoring Organization(s)**, if applicable (block club, neighborhood association, church, non-profit, etc):
4. **Primary Contact name:**
5. **Primary Contact or Organization address/phone/email.** This is the contact we will use to reach you with questions, follow up and to announce awards. Please make sure this information is accurate and that the e-mail address provided is checked frequently.
6. **Best way to reach you?**
7. **Are you interested in hearing from us about future UAWG events, activities and funding opportunities?**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Describe your garden. (For example: neighborhood, size and kind of land/lot, kind(s) of beds and how many, any special or interesting features)
2. How long has your garden existed?
3. What do you grow in your garden? If you grow food, where does the food go?
4. How is your garden run? (For example: who makes decisions about the garden; have you had to deal with changes in leadership and if so, how; who owns the land the garden is on?)
5. How do you involve the community in your garden?

6. How many people or families participate in/are served by your garden? Are participants assigned plots or are the plots communal? Do participants pay to be a part of the garden?
- 🍏 Check here to indicate that you have included a picture of your garden (required).

WHAT DO YOU NEED AND HOW CAN WE HELP?

1. Does your garden currently receive any income? If so, how much, where does the money come from, and what do you use it for?
2. Have you ever received funding from another grant program or foundation? If so, who, how much and when?
3. Tell us about the opportunities and challenges facing your garden. What are some of the challenges in your neighborhood that you are trying to address with your garden? (**TIP:** this is often called the “statement of need” in other grant applications)
4. Are you applying for a \$250 or \$500 grant? If you are applying for a \$500 grant, would you still accept a \$250 grant?
5. What, specifically, would you use the funding to purchase? (For example, what kinds of plants, material for how many beds, specific tools or equipment, etc.)
6. How would receiving a grant through the UAWG help your garden grow and/or improve, as well as address the challenges and opportunities you listed above? (**TIP:** This is often called the “return on investment.”)
7. We will require an end of the season report from gardens that receive funding. How will you demonstrate and document success? (For example: Before and after photos, increased sign-ups, event attendance, etc.) (**TIP:** Save all your documentation! It will really help you apply for other grants!)
8. If selected for a grant, who will your garden send to participate in UAWG meetings and activities? If different from the contact listed above, please include their information. This commitment may be shared among multiple people, but we’d prefer one or two to take the lead on it.
9. Please sign below to indicate that all the information in this application is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that you understand the requirements of this grant (namely, UAWG participation and end-of-season reporting).

Signature _____

Date _____