



**COMMUNITY ACTION COALITION
FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN, INC.**

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Dear Community Garden Supporter:

Thank you for your interest in starting a new community garden or expanding one in your neighborhood! Your project might be a good candidate for a grant from Madison's New Garden Fund. Community Action Coalition administers this fund, with the assistance of a Gardener Panel of community gardeners from around the City of Madison, who make funding decisions.

The application packet and gardens handbook of resources are available online. **We invite you to print out an application packet online at: http://www.cacscw.org/garden_grants.php**

The garden handbook of resources is also available online at http://www.cacscw.org/garden_handbook.php. The handbook can help you with creating a new garden and managing it as a community resource. Also, at the end of this letter are some websites that you should check for detailed information on starting community gardens.

The proposals are due on Friday, January 13, 2012 by 5pm. Applications are accepted by mail, email, or in person, but please note that our office is open Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm. Please see below for contact information. The following are requirements for any project to be funded:

- garden located within the City of Madison
- commitment of substantial core group of gardeners (at least 10 families who want plots)
- available or affordable space where garden could be located long-term
- neighborhood support (from your community association and alder; also families whose homes are within sight of the garden should be asked to respond through the survey included in this application packet.)
- participation open to the entire community
- scarcity of open garden plots in neighborhood; more demand than supply

When possible, the Gardeners Panel prefers to fund projects with some of these elements:

- gardeners who are ethnically, economically & socially diverse and have differing abilities
- gardens located in lower-income neighborhoods
- a plan to include children's programs
- a plan to include raised garden beds for people with disabilities
- a neighborhood beautification or aesthetic component
- a plan to contribute produce to food pantries
- a five-year lease or written commitment for use of the land

Please note that you may request funding up to \$2000, but the New Garden Fund is rarely able to fully fund projects. Please be prepared to prioritize your funding requests when you meet with New Garden Fund panel members.

Staff of CAC Community Gardens and members of the New Garden Fund Panel are happy to talk with you as you plan for your garden and prepare your application. Please call with any questions.

Feel free to handwrite your application. If you would prefer to fill the application materials out electronically, let me know and I will email the application to you.

Although CAC Community Gardens would like to be able to offer continuing support to all new gardens in Madison, we do not have the funding to do so. Our mission is to support community gardening for lower-income families. We are required to collect demographic information on all of our gardeners to prove to our Federal funders that we are serving low-income people. If new gardens want to be considered for services from CAC (described in the New Garden Handbook, page 5), they need to collect demographic information and demonstrate that 51% of the gardeners involved have low- to moderate-income based on the Dane County Median income. Please let me know if you are interested in continuing support from CAC, and I can give you the details.

I hope that your garden plans germinate, grow, bloom, and bear fruit this year! Thanks again for your interest and for your work starting a new garden in your community.

Sincerely,

Chris Brockel
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Starting a New Garden – Website handbooks and resources from community garden groups around the country:

<http://wasatchgardens.org/files/images/FromNeglectedParcelsToCommunityGardens.PDF>

<http://www.gardeningmatters.org/resources/startupguide.pdf>

<http://communitygarden.org/learn/starting-a-community-garden.php>

<http://openlands.org/Community-Greening/How-to-Guides/>

http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/garden/articles/startup_guide.html

<http://www.foginfo.org/commfood.php>

<http://www.bostonnatural.org/cgOrganizing.htm>