



January 2010

Dear Grant Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in starting or expanding the services of a community garden or food pantry garden in Dane County! Your project might be a good candidate for the **Share Your Harvest Garden Grant** from the Madison Community Foundation, administered by the Food & Gardens Program of Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc. (CAC).

Helpful definitions:

Hunger relief agencies - In the context of this grant - food pantries, meal sites and other agencies that provide food at no cost.

Community garden - A collaborative garden bringing together diverse community groups to establish gardens plots for individual gardeners, and/or community plots for food pantries, meal sites, senior centers, youth organizations or community institutions.

Food pantry garden - A vegetable garden managed by local groups partnering with community volunteers - working together to supply fresh produce for distribution to local hunger relief agencies.

The proposals are due at noon on **Monday, February 22, 2010**. The following are requirements for any project to be funded:

- A new Dane County community garden or food pantry garden; or expansion of the services offered in an existing garden
- A plan to partner with and contribute garden produce to one or more local hunger relief agencies
- Commitment of substantial core group of gardeners (at least 10 families who want plots for a community garden; at least 5 volunteers for a food pantry garden)
- Available or affordable space where the garden could be located long-term
- Neighborhood support, if garden will be located on public land
- Participation open to the entire community in community gardens
- Scarcity of open community garden plots in neighborhood (more demand than supply); or need for fresh produce for the local food pantry

When possible, we prefer to fund projects incorporating some of these elements, when relevant:

- Gardeners who are ethnically, economically & socially diverse or have differing abilities
- Gardens located in or close to lower-income neighborhoods
- Gardens located in neighborhoods with limited access to fresh produce needed to maintain a healthy diet
- A plan to mentor food pantry clients toward vegetable gardening self-sufficiency
- A plan to accommodate people with disabilities, such as including raised garden beds, providing ergonomic tools, etc.
- A plan to include children's programs or youth volunteers
- A neighborhood beautification or aesthetic component
- A five-year lease or written commitment for use of the land

Staff of CAC Community Gardens are available 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; or if you prefer to fill the application materials out electronically, **the application packet is available online:** http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/Garden%20Grants\garden_grants.htm

CAC's community garden handbook can help you with creating a new community garden and managing it as a community resource. It is available online at:
http://cacscw.org/gardens/Garden%20Grants/NGF_Handbook_2008.pdf

A guide that may help you in developing a food pantry garden is the Gaining Ground model, whose mission is - *To grow organic produce for hunger relief with help from volunteers of all ages and abilities, who work and learn in our gardens.* It is available online at:
http://www.gainingground.org/downloads/Gaining_Ground_Model_Booklet.pdf

Also, at the end of this letter are some websites that provide information on starting community gardens, food pantry gardens and a Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR) campaign. CAC is the coordinator of the Dane County PAR, which is part of a nation wide people-helping-people program to help feed the hungry in local neighborhoods and communities. Since 1995, American gardeners participating in PAR donated over 14 million pounds of herbs and vegetables to feed the hungry. Participants plant an extra row of produce and donate it to local food banks, soup kitchens and service organizations to help feed America's hungry.

Although CAC Community Gardens would like to be able to offer continuing support to all new community gardens in Dane County, we do not have the funding to do so. Our mission is to support community gardening for lower-income families. If new community 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. For more details please contact Nicole Craig, 608-246-4730, ext 208 if you are interested in CAC continuing support.

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 that will provide fresh produce for the gardeners and those in need.

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Starting a New Garden

Website handbooks and resources from garden groups around the country

Community garden resources:

<http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/index.htm>

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

<http://feeds.uwex.edu/resources/index.cfm>

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

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

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

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

<http://wasatchgardens.org/garden>

Food pantry garden resources:

<http://www.gainingground.org/>

<http://foodpantrygardens.org/index.html>

<http://pantrygarden.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.orucc.org/2009/12/05/vegetable-village>

Plant a Row for the Hungry, and similar program resources:

<http://www.gardenwriters.org/gwa.php?p=par/index.html>

<http://www.soulfoodministry.org/docs/English/PlantARow.htm>

<http://www.stmartinscp.org/TeamMinistries/Missions/PlantaRowGarden/tabid/113/Default.aspx>

<http://www.ampleharvest.org/>

<http://www.mofga.org/Publications/MaineOrganicFarmerGardener/Winter20082009/Ferriss/tabid/1017/Default.aspx>

<http://www.foodshuttle.org/garden.html>