

GET GROWING KANSAS CITY

MINI-GRANTS

Get Growing Kansas City is a two- year campaign to help Kansas City grow and access good food in city neighborhoods, with a strong focus on the communities with the least access and the most challenges to growing their own food.

We are a multi-organizational effort that brings together Cultivate Kansas City (formerly the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture), Kansas City Community Gardens, and Lincoln University's Cooperative Extension to provide free technical assistance and support to home and community gardeners, urban farmers, community organizations and non profits on how to grow and increase access to good food through community based food projects.

Our vision is a Kansas City metro where:

- People garden at home, in vacant lots, and at community sites.
- Urban farmers produce food to supply the wider community.
- Children and youth garden at their schools, community centers and in other educational settings.
- Every resident has genuine access to locally grown foods through farmers' markets, on-site stands, food pantries, meal programs and other retail and free distribution sites.

Through the generous funding of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, we are also able to offer mini-grants in support of these activities.

Purpose of the mini-grants: to help get new farms and community gardens started and to help existing farms and gardens expand their capacity to produce food for residents of Jackson county, MO, Kansas City, MO, and Wyandotte and Johnson counties in Kansas, particularly residents with limited access to fresh, locally grown food.

Funds will be available to growers who sell their produce and to growers based in 501c3 organizations who will produce food for consumption with or without a commercial transaction (i.e. community gardens, charitable gardens, educational gardens, or similar).

Start-date: First grants will be awarded in the last quarter of 2011; last grants will be awarded in the second quarter of 2013.

Deadline for application	Decisions and grant checks awarded
December 1, 2011, 5pm CST by email	January 15, 2012
Feb 1, 2012, 5pm CST by email	March 11, 2012
August 1, 2012, 5pm CST by email	September 11, 2012
December 1, 2012, 5pm CST by email	January 15, 2013
Feb 1, 2013, 5pm CST by email	March 11, 2013

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Grants are available to:

- 501c3 organizations or a project that has fiscal sponsorship of a 501c3
- Farmers selling produce

In order for an urban farmer to be eligible, they must have:

- A State Retail Sales Tax License;
- At least one full production season of documented sales of their farm products (can be proven through submitting a copy of the previous year's signed and submitted Federal Schedule F, or a year's worth of Kansas Retailer's Sales Tax Return ST-26 forms and/or Missouri Sales Tax Return, Form 53.)

If a farmer has been selling, but does not have one or either of these, please contact a member of the Get Growing team, at 816-226-7979 or info@getgrowingkc.org. A team member will talk to you about what records you may have available to document your previous sales.

If you do not currently have sponsorship of a 501c3, please contact a member of the Get Growing team, at 816-226-7979 or info@getgrowingkc.org and we may be able to work with you to find a sponsor.

School-based garden programs are not eligible. KC Community Gardens has another program to help school gardens. Please contact Andrea Mathew at KCCG, 6917 Kensington Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64132-1633, (816) 931-3877.

Amount Available: Up to \$50,000 will be distributed over the five grant cycles. The maximum grant size is \$3,000, with the expectation that actual grant awards may range between \$250 and \$3,000, depending on the project.

Cooperative proposals from more than one farmer or community garden will be considered; the funds available will be up to \$3,000 per farmer or community garden.

This is a one-time only award , so please seriously consider your plans over the next two years.

Grant restrictions:

- Funds may be used only for projects/farms/gardens that grow or raise food (vegetables, fruits, dairy, meat or other edible farm products) in Kansas City, MO, Jackson county, MO, and Wyandotte and Johnson counties in Kansas, for consumption by residents in those counties.
- Priority will be given to growers serving low-income communities and people with limited healthy food options.
- An organization or farmer can receive only **one** grant; this is a two-year project and funding will not be available after the two year period.

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Funds may be requested for:

- Start-up and expansion costs for gardens or urban farms, such as compost, seeds, fencing, water access, raised beds, tools, and equipment.
- Up to 40% maybe used for paying stipends, wages, or fees. If funds are requested to pay people, you will need to address if and how those positions will continue after the grant funds are used.
- Infrastructure: Grant requests for structures such as high tunnels or small greenhouses will be considered; the grower must document that the structure will comply with applicable building codes. We will also consider requests for the cost of developing water access systems or other infrastructure needs.

We may suggest a modification of your budget based on reviewer feedback.

Projects that include funding from other sources are welcome.

Grant review process:

Applications will be reviewed and awarded by a seven member peer review committee that includes at least 2 growers (farmers, community or home gardeners), one individual with formal grantmaking/ philanthropic experience, one person with experience as a leader and organizer in grass-roots communities, and no more than three members of the management committee of the Get Growing team.

If you apply and your proposal is not funded, you may be eligible to reapply after consultation with a member of the Get Growing team.

We strongly encourage working with a member of the team in advance of submitting the proposal. The team members' primary role in the grantmaking process is to help you develop the best possible project and the best possible grant application, and then to let the review committee objectively evaluate. Please keep in mind that if a grant review committee member has worked with you on your proposal or project, they will recuse themselves from discussion of your application.

If a grant is awarded, you will need to:

1. Sign a grant agreement stating that you will use the grant funds as presented in the budget.
2. Meet with a member of the Get Growing Team at your farm/garden sometime between 4 and 6 months of the grant being awarded. (We also strongly encourage that you use the Get Growing team members for additional technical assistance and support during your implementation of the funded project.)

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3. Submit a final report and pictures of the results of the grants. The final report will consist of:
 - a. A narrative answering these questions:
 - i. Tell us how you implemented the funded project.
 - ii. Were there any significant changes to your plan?
 - iii. How did the funded project increase the supply of locally grown food available to people with limited resources and fresh food access?
 - iv. What are your future plans for use of the capital investments you purchased under the grant?
 - b. A financial report of actual expenditures and any other related income.
 - c. Photos of your work under this project.

Funds must be spent within 12 months of the grant agreement signing. The final report is due within 14 months of the grant agreement signing.

Please use attached Mini-Grant Application Form to apply for a grant. If you need technical assistance with developing your project or with the application form, please contact 816.226.7979 or info@getgrowingkc.org and one of the team members will set up time to work with you. Please give us as much advance notice as possible, the team members are all part-time!