

2018 UNION COUNTY MEANS GREEN COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANTS

sponsored by

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Mission and Goals: The Union County Means Green Community grant program is designed to provide Union County residents with new opportunities for improved nutrition, education, recreation, social activities and community service.

Schedule: Applications for 2018 are now being accepted. Applications must be received **by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16**. Applicants will be notified of their award on or about Friday, March 23.

Who May Apply: Funding is available to non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, and to municipal entities including (but not limited to) senior housing, community centers and public libraries. Other volunteer civic organizations may apply but ***must*** designate a municipal or local 501(c)(3) organization to accept the award on their behalf. Groups organized as LLCs or other commercial enterprises are not eligible.

What the Grants Cover: This grant program covers produce gardens including vegetables, fruits, nuts, berries, herbs and spices, pollinator-attracting plants and plants for pest management. It does not cover ornamental plants or non-producing gardens.

Garden Qualifications: Raised bed gardens must be located on property at least 20'x14' receiving 6-8 hours of sunlight daily with available or planned water supply.

Other garden types (greenhouse, rooftop, etc.) must provide a description of the property and affirm that it is capable of supporting the garden project. All gardens must be on property owned by a municipal entity, a 501(c)(3) or an affiliate of a 501(c)(3).

Gardens must agree to set aside a portion of their harvest for community donation and enroll in Come Grow With Us!, a free countywide information and resource sharing network for community gardens. Come Grow With Us! is a program of Groundwork Elizabeth.

-- Printable application form begins on next page --

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Section 1. Contact Information

a. Municipal entity or organization sponsoring the garden:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone + Email: _____

b. Grant partner, if needed [must be a municipal entity or 501(c)(3) organization]:*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone + Email: _____

**Applicants that are volunteer organizations without 501(c)(3) tax exempt status must use this part to designate a 501(c)(3) partner or municipal entity that will receive the award on behalf of the garden.*

c. Head Gardener #1 (main person in charge of garden):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone + Email: _____

-- application continues on next page --

d. Head Gardener #2 (back-up contact for Head Gardener #1):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone + Email: _____

Section 2. Garden Information

a. Name of garden:

b. Location of garden (street address or other specifics):

c. Owner of property:*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone + Email: _____

**Garden cannot be located on commercial or privately owned property.*

d. New or existing garden

Is this a new garden? (yes / no)

Is this an existing garden? (yes / no)

-- application continues on next page --

f. Raised bed garden information (other garden types leave blank):

Location is at least 20' x 14' (yes / no)

Approximate size of location: _____

Location receives at least 6-8 hours of sunlight daily (yes / no)

Water supply is available or planned for 2017 (yes / no)

e. Other garden type (raised bed gardens leave blank):

On a separate sheet, describe the type of garden (rooftop, hydroponic, etc.) and its location, and indicate the availability of water, light and other features needed to sustain it.

f. Volunteer support

Approximate number of volunteers available to tend garden: _____

Section 3. Community Information

On a separate sheet, provide brief answers for the following questions:

- 1. What are your goals for providing nutritional benefits to the community, including produce donations?*
- 2. What produce would you like to grow in 2017?*
- 3. List additional reasons for building, expanding or improving your garden (examples -- education, therapy, beautification, recreation).*
- 4. How do you plan to engage the community (examples – special events, activities, social area, networking with volunteers).*
- 5. Are volunteers available throughout the growing season?*
- 6. Raised-bed gardens: Provide a simple sketch or description of the layout for your new and/or existing beds, and indicate existing or planned water source.*

-- application continues on next page --

Section 4. Grant Options

Please note: gardens may apply for more than one grant. Please use separate applications for each request.

Option 1: Start a New Garden (\$1,250.00). Option 1 provides a simple, economical way to start a new garden. As grant administrator, the nonprofit organization Groundwork Elizabeth provides a complete garden package including installation of new beds along with soil, seeds or seedlings, tools, materials and follow-up support. Applicants can specify raised beds, Earth Boxes, or waist-high "senior" beds.

Indicate here if you are applying for **an Option 1 grant:** (yes / no).

Option 2: Garden Improvements (\$500.00). Option 2 provides materials and equipment needed to complete a new garden, or enhance an existing garden. Qualifying purchases include but are not limited to soil, compost, new beds (including raised beds, senior beds and Earth Boxes), irrigation, fencing, tools, benches/tables (for social engagement and education), seeds, seedlings, saplings, harvest supplies, storage bins and sheds. The grant cannot be used for decorative items, food/drink, advertising/outreach, etc.

Indicate here if you are applying for **a Garden Improvement grant:** (yes / no).

If yes, on a separate sheet please provide an itemized budget for your purchases. Applications for Garden Improvements grants will not be processed without a budget.

-- application continues on next page --

Option 3: New Garden Innovations (award varies). Option 3 is designed to bring leading trends in community gardening and urban agriculture to Union County residents.

- **Start a Pollinator Garden** (\$750.00). This is a pre-budgeted package developed by Groundwork Elizabeth. It includes installation and support. These gardens include pollinator-attracting herbs and vegetables.
- **Start a Hydroponic Garden** (\$3,000.00) This is a pre-budgeted package developed by Groundwork Elizabeth. Groundwork will provide delivery, setup and follow-up support.
- **High Tunnel Installation** (up to \$2,000.00). This award is intended for experienced gardeners who have already obtained a US Department of Agriculture grant for high tunnel installation. The USDA grant typically covers 80 percent of the cost and the Union County grant would cover the remainder of the cost, up to \$2000.*

**High tunnels are raised crop coverings that increase yields by extending the growing season. They also help to prevent erosion, retain moisture, and reduce weeds and pests. Under its Natural Resources Conservation Initiative, USDA promotes high tunnels for use in community gardens and urban farming as well as in traditional farming.*

Section 5. Agreement

Save the date: Successful applicants will receive their awards at the start of the Freeholder Board meeting scheduled for **Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.** at the 6th Floor Meeting Room, County Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth. Attendance is required by a head gardener or other garden representative.

By signing below, I demonstrate a commitment to:

- Provide documentation of one-to-one matching funds (monetary or in-kind).
- Display a sign provided by Union County, identifying the funding source (the Union County Means Green Community Garden Grant program).

- Donate a portion of the harvest to the community and provide a year-end garden summary including an estimate (in pounds) of produce harvested and donated.
- Enroll in Come Grow with Us!, a free countywide community garden information and resource sharing program of the non-profit organization Groundwork Elizabeth. As a Come Grow With Us! partner garden, my garden will not use synthetic fertilizers or chemical pest management.
- Attend a grant workshop in April (date tbd). Head gardener or other garden representative may attend.
- Include members of the Freeholder Board in garden events, provide biweekly photos for use in an online photo gallery, and credit the Freeholder Board in promoting the award.

Head Gardener #1

Name (sign): _____

Applications may be sent by mail, email or fax **by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 16** to:

Tina Casey
Deputy Director, Union County Office of Public Information
10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Email: tcasey@ucnj.org Phone: 908-527-4346 Fax: 908-527-4704

Applicants will be notified on or about Friday, March 23.