

2018 Community Garden Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are applications due?

A: Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on February 23, 2018. Complete the online questions, complete and upload the City of Columbus and Franklin County Community Garden Grant Application, and be sure to upload your land ownership document.

Q: Based on what criteria are grants awarded?

A: The ability to describe:

1. The structural details of the garden
2. The ability for the responsible party to carry out the project long-term
3. The expected benefits the garden will have on the community
4. The goals the garden plans to achieve with the funding request
5. The sustainability plans for the garden
6. The garden project budget

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

A: Both new and existing gardens that are a registered with the Internal Revenue Service as nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply, or can apply in partnership with a fiscal sponsor meeting this criteria.

Q: How do I know if my garden is located in a City of Columbus or Franklin County eligible area?

A: Locate your parcel ID to determine if the property is located in an eligible area. You can find this by visiting www.franklincountyauditor.com or calling, 614-525-4663. Your proposal must include a Parcel ID (i.e. 010-067474).

Q: What are the most important things to remember when securing a fiscal sponsor?

A: Prior experience with the fiscal organization is advised to ensure communication upon receiving grants and throughout the season. Make sure you have a trusting and working relationship with your fiscal sponsor to ensure accountability in all fiscal matters. Checks will be made out to the fiscal sponsor. They are responsible for releasing funds to the garden.

Q: Can the fiscal sponsor and the garden group be different?

A: Yes, your garden group may be a neighborhood group, a church, a block watch or similar organizations. Your fiscal sponsor must be registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit 501 (c)(3).

Q: How much money can I apply for?

A: Awards can be given up to \$2,000 for supplies and/or contracted services. This does not include any in-kind product awards from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.

Q: What items are eligible for me to include in my funding request?

A: Seeds, plants, tools, garden equipment, contracted services such as rental vehicle, fence installer, help with water line, water conservation tools, small signs, lumber for raised beds, safety items like hand washing station.

Q: What items are NOT eligible for grant funding?

A: Personnel or ongoing operational costs, water bills, pergolas, kiosks, marketing materials, large sheds, and tree removal. Garden soil, topsoil, mulch, all-purpose plant food, humus & manure may only be requested in the product donation section of your application. Do not request additional funding for these items in the project budget.

Q. In the application budget, may I apply for additional soil, mulch, plant food, etc. outside of the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company products donation?

A. No. Please request donated Scotts Miracle-Gro Company products in the product donation section of the application. Garden soil, topsoil, mulch, all-purpose plant food, humus & manure may only be requested in the product donation section. Do not request additional funding for these items in the project budget.

Q: Do grant recipients receive anything in addition to the monetary award?

A: Yes, Scotts Miracle-Gro provides in kind donations of soil, topsoil, mulch, all-purpose plant food, humus and manure. Recipients can receive a maximum of two pallets of each product type and one case of plant food. Awards are based on needs and product availability, and will be available for recipients to pick up at the Earth Day event on April 20, 2018.

Q: How will grantees pick up Scotts Miracle-Gro Company products?

A: Product delivery will not be available in 2018. Awardees need to make arrangements to pick up products at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens on Friday, April 20th. Gardens should include a contracted vehicle in their application budget if necessary. Specific instructions for product pick-up will be sent via email.

Q: How and when are awards announced?

A: Columbus Public Health, for City applicants, or Franklin County Economic Development and Planning, for County applicants, will send emails by March 19, 2018 to the leader of the recipient organization AND the garden project manager regarding the outcome of your application. The Columbus Foundation will follow with official notification, including grant agreements for those awarded funding, by Monday, April 2, 2018.

Q: When are grant funds distributed?

A: Grant funds are distributed after The Columbus Foundation has received the signed grant agreement from the recipient 501(c)(3) organization. For those gardens utilizing a fiscal sponsor, it is advised that you confirm when they should expect the grant agreement notification and agree upon a timeline for the grant agreement to be signed and returned for payment.