

2020 Urban Gardening Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are applications due?

A: Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2019. Complete the online questions, upload the signed Application Acknowledgement Form and the Franklin County Auditor Parcel Summary document.

Q: Based on what criteria are grants awarded?

A: The proposal's alignment with the Urban Gardening Grant; and the ability to describe the garden's intended impact on the community, capacity of the responsible party to carry out the project, sustainability plan for the garden and the garden project's budget.

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: Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

A: Both new and existing gardens that are either themselves a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) registered with the Internal Revenue Service or have partnered with a 501 (c)(3) as their fiscal sponsor. Examples of applicable groups are neighborhood groups, churches and block watches. Eligible gardens must benefit a group of people, and not be for personal benefit.

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 group.

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: Gardens may apply for up to \$3,000 for supplies and/or contracted services. This does not include any in-kind product awards from ScottsMiracle-Gro.

Q: What items are NOT eligible for grant funding?

A: Personnel or ongoing operational costs and utility bills, and items that do not align with the grant purpose and funder priorities. The list is subject to the reviewers' discretion. While some items may be eligible for they may not be funded due to funding limitations and grant priorities.

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

A: Yes, ScottsMiracle-Gro provides in kind donations of in-ground soil, topsoil, mulch, all-purpose plant food, and humus and manure. Recipients can receive up to \$600 worth of product, although the exact amount and types of products vary from year to year. Awards are based on needs and product availability, and will be available for recipients to pick up at the Earth Day event on April 17, 2020.

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

A. Yes. Provide ample justification throughout the application and in the budget for why The Scotts Miracle-Gro donated product is not sufficient for the needs of the garden. Funding for product is given at the discretion of the grant reviewers, and is based on justification, need and funding availability.

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

A: Applicants should plan to make arrangements to pick up products from the Franklin Park Conservatory. Product delivery will be provided for selected gardens depending on product award amount and feasibility. Gardens should include a contracted vehicle in their application budget, if necessary. Further instructions for product pick-up will be sent via email.

Q: How and when are awards announced?

A: All grant notifications will take place by January 17, 2020.

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.

Q: Is a garden considered New or Continuing if there was a previous garden on the same site, but has since been demolished?

A: If nothing can be salvaged from the previous garden such as garden beds, soil or plants, the garden can be considered new. Consult the Urban Gardening Grant Help Desk Operator for further questions regarding the classification.

Q: Does the landowner need to sign the Acknowledgment Document?

A: Yes, the landowner must sign the Acknowledgment Document, or else the application will be considered incomplete and unable to be considered for funding.

Q: Will requests for resources/materials for cooking demonstrations and cooking classes be accepted as a part of the application budget?

A: Yes, as long as those resources/materials are directly tied to healthy eating education linked with the garden. Requests for funding will be at the discretion of the reviewer.

Q: If the garden site is owned by the Land Bank, should the Land Bank sign as the Land Owner on the Application Acknowledgment form?

A: Yes. All gardens located on Land Bank sites must have the Application Acknowledgment Form signed by the appropriate Land Bank representative.

Q: If one is having technological issues with the application, will in person assistance be made available?

A: The answer to this request is at the discretion of the Urban Gardening Grant Help Desk Operator.