

NOURISHING NORTH CAROLINA



ONE GARDEN AT A TIME.

Nourishing North Carolina Grant Application and Guidelines

*Application Deadline ~ June 17
This is the final grant cycle for this program*

Nourishing North Carolina (NNC) is a partnership between Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina and the NC Recreation & Park Association to establish or enhance community gardens in each of North Carolina's 100 counties by the end of 2013. The North Carolina Community Garden Partners have joined us in the venture to increase access to and consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables to North Carolina's citizens. Funds will be awarded in each county to implement the project.

As this is the third year of the grant cycle – **funding has already been awarded in many counties.**

Eligible counties include:

Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Carteret, Caswell, Chowan, Columbus, Davie, Graham, Granville, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Martin, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Randolph, Scotland, Swain, Union, Vance, Washington, Yadkin and Yancey

General Information/Guidelines:

- Nourishing North Carolina (NNC) will be funding community gardens in each of North Carolina's 100 counties throughout 2011, 2012 and 2013 with an average of 33 each year.
- Funding up to \$3000 is available per county. The funding may be awarded to one garden or may be divided among several gardens based on applications received. A collaborative application to fund more than one garden per county will be given priority over competitive applications within a county.
- This is the third and final year of grant funding.
- NNC is looking to fund gardens that have strong collaboration between parks & recreation and the community. Priority will be given to applications where parks & recreation, the health department and cooperative extension are involved. Where this isn't feasible applications showing other strong support will be considered.
- Priority will be given to gardens that will be sited on parks & recreation property, but where that is not feasible, gardens sited on other public lands will be considered.
- Funding may be requested to establish a new garden or enhance an existing garden.
- Funding may not be used for land acquisition.
- Funding may be used for purchasing supplies, materials, plants, planting material, fencing, etc.
- Produce from NNC funded gardens cannot be sold.
- Gardens located in food deserts or areas that will be providing fresh produce to underserved/at-risk-populations will be given higher consideration. A food desert is any area where healthy, affordable food is difficult to obtain. It is prevalent in rural as well as urban areas and is most prevalent in low-socioeconomic minority communities, and is associated with a variety of diet-related health problems.
- Only gardens located on public land are eligible for funding.

Scope:

This is a three year project and participating organizations are expected to report and provide updates on their garden over the duration of the program. NNC grantees that adhere to the reporting schedule will be eligible to receive additional funding for year two and three to assist in the continuation and growth of the garden.

- Gardens initially funded in 2011 are eligible to receive an additional \$750 in 2012 & 2013 for a total of \$4500 pending success of the garden and reporting of required information. This additional funding will be provided annually. Three years of reporting required.
- Gardens initially funded in 2012 are eligible to receive an additional \$750 in 2013 for a total of \$3750 pending success of the garden and reporting of required information. This additional funding will be provided annually. Two years of reporting required.
- Gardens initially funded in 2013 will receive the \$3000 grant with no additional funding. One year of reporting required.

Requirements

- NNC gardens are required to designate a garden manager as the point of contact and who is responsible for all reporting plus management of the garden team. (*The American Gardening Association recommends strongly that any new garden have at least 10 participating members, assuring that, despite attrition, the garden will have adequate support to be well maintained.*)
- Participating NNC gardens must have a committed garden team with at least ten team members from sponsoring organizations and community representatives.
- The garden manager is expected to share information about and from Nourishing North Carolina with those that participate in the local garden.
- Applicants must have a written plan with timeline on the steps the team will take to implement their garden project.
- At least 10% of produce must be donated to local food pantries, homeless shelters or food rescue organizations.
- NNC gardens will be provided signage, designating the garden as part of the Nourishing NC network, which is to be erected in the garden area.
- NNC gardens will be expected to register with the NC Community Garden Partners (no charge).
- NNC gardens will be expected to share success stories, photos, etc. that can be used in promotional materials to spotlight the success of their garden.
- NNC gardens are encouraged to plan celebrations and educational outreach events – i.e., the first harvest, the largest tomato, cooking and preserving classes, growing workshops, donations to social support organizations (such as homeless shelter/food pantries, etc.)
- The garden manager is expected to provide NCRPA with 2 weeks notice of such planned events.
- The garden must be located on public land.

Reporting:

NNC grantees will be required to report regularly about:

- The harvests from their garden.
- The number of individuals that are consuming produce from the garden.
- The number of individuals/work hours spent in the garden.
- The amount of harvest shared with food pantries, homeless shelters, food recovery organizations, etc.
- Success stories and special events affiliated with their garden.

Questions about the Nourishing North Carolina project should be directed to:

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**This program is a partnership between
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina and
the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association**



In cooperation with the NC Community Garden Partners

