



KACEE
 KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR
 CONSERVATION &
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 EDUCATION



Youth Gardening School Community Partnership Call for Collaboration Proposal

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2016

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The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) seeks community partners to collaboratively develop a model program with local schools which promote gardening with kids, connected education, and community partnerships to grow, prepare and preserve fresh, local produce. Selected teams will receive a \$10,000 sub grant to cover personnel, stipends to Ag Producers, travel, materials, supplies and equipment to develop a school/community garden project that models best practices for school/community collaboration and may be replicated in other communities.

Research shows a tremendous need to improve the diets of our children through increasing the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables they are consuming. Schools and parents are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of addressing children’s health as a part of a comprehensive school experience. This creates a compelling rationale for school administrators, teachers and parents. By building the community network to engage students year round in gardening, both at the school and within the community, we have the potential to significantly increase students’ experiences with and access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

However, in order for more school gardening programs to take place, we must first address one of the most challenging barriers for schools—what do to with the gardens over the summer? As the majority of the growing season occurs over the months when teachers and students are gone, schools either have to have dedicated administrators, teachers, parents or community members who will tend the garden over the summer which then becomes an additional burden on a school. This project seeks to address this problem through shared value creation. In other words, partnerships that provide mutual value to all. We are requesting proposals from potential community partners who have a need for summer youth programming connected to gardening (examples include but are not limited to: Boys and Girls Clubs, Summer Youth Programs at zoos, parks and nature centers, 4-H Clubs, FFA Organizations, Church Youth Summer Programs, Community College, College and University Summer Youth Programs or Boy and Girl Scouts) who want to be paired with a local school interested in gardening to develop shared garden project.

The Youth Gardening School Community Partnership Project is made possible through a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the:



Project # 1824-6

PROGRAM GOALS

The Youth Garden School Community Collaborative project seeks to create models of community collaborations that work to effectively integrate gardening with students in informal (afterschool and summer) and formal (classroom/school) settings through the expansion and enhancement of the Kansas School Garden Program (KSGP) and these primary activities:

1. **Develop Youth Gardening Community Collaborations:** KACEE will issue a “Call for Collaboration” proposal to our Kansas Green Schools Network, our KACEE partners and network and statewide Agriculture and Informal partners to collaboratively develop a model program with local schools that promote gardening with kids, connected education, and community partnerships including local farmers and culinary arts schools to grow and prepare and preserve fresh, local produce.
2. **Building Community Collaborations for School Gardening:** KACEE will host the three model Community Collaboration teams for a professional development and planning retreat designed to learn how to connect gardening to learning and build successful collaborations using a collective impact model.
3. **Creating Model Community Collaborations for School Gardening:** KACEE will work with model collaboratives to implement, evaluate and document (through case studies) the development of local school student garden programs which support school gardening programs throughout the year in both the school and after/out of school settings.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Recruit three community/school gardening collaboratives which include a parents and a local agricultural producer to attend a planning retreat organized around a collective impact model with the following work outcomes:
 - Professional development on key components for successful collaboration.
 - Professional development on connecting school gardening to the curriculum.
 - Development of a work plan for school/community garden collaboration with a timeline, persons responsible, budget and curriculum connections, monitoring and assessment plans and sustainability options.
2. Pilot three community/school gardening collaboratives which include a parents and a local agricultural producer which will provide a strong model of shared valued creation between schools and community groups to increase the number of school/community gardens in Kansas. Collaboratives will provide ongoing reports of progress including benchmark data and visual and written documentation through an online portal.
3. Development of case studies which outline the processes, challenges and accomplishments of the collaborative which may be used by other schools and community groups to establish similar partnerships.
4. Increase the consumption of specialty crops among school-aged children and their families.
5. Build capacity, sustainability and community engagement with students in gardening throughout the year through community programs that provide critical service to youth and developing youth leadership to carry the gardening work into the school year, such as Boys and Girls clubs.
6. Model community engagement in school/afterschool/summer youth gardening.
7. Legitimize youth gardening as an effective, hands-on opportunity for learning across the curriculum and an important way for schools and school support programs to become healthier and more sustainable places to work, learn, and play through the Kansas Green Schools of Excellence recognition program by including school gardening as a pathway for achieving recognition and connecting school gardening to the US Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools recognition.

GRANT BASICS

Three collaboratives in Kansas will be chosen to participate. Selected School/Community Collaboratives will Receive:

- \$10,000 subgrant, that can cover personnel, stipends for ag producers, travel, materials, supplies and equipment for school garden projects
- Professional development on key components for successful collaboration and connecting school gardening to the curriculum
- Technical support for all aspects of the project from planning through implementation
- Recognition for creating a model collaborative school garden project

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Proposals may be submitted by:

- Any 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, such as a school, nature center, museum, learning center, or community group
- A local education agency, college or university
- A state education or environmental agency

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND TIMELINE

School/Community Collaboratives will be Required to:

1. Assemble a collaborative team comprised of the following: (1) a community organization; (2) a school; (3) a parent; (4) a local agricultural producer, and (5) up to three additional community partners.
2. Identify a lead organization to submit a proposal and letters of support from collaborative team members **by no later than February 1, 2016.**
3. Send a team to attend a planning retreat organized around a collective impact model in **Spring of 2016** to work with the other two projects and establish baseline collective impact agreements and shared measures, learn about ways to connect curriculum to gardening, as well as begin developing a work plan and budget for your project.
4. Develop a work plan for school/community garden collaboration with a one year (**April 2016-March 2017**) timeline, persons responsible, budget and curriculum connections, monitoring and assessment plans and sustainability options.
5. Implement work plans to successfully engage the collaborative, gather supplies, work with students and local ag producer to plant gardens, engage students using the garden as a learning lab, engage community partners during summer and partial harvest of the garden and connections to careers in production, sale and use of fresh produce.
6. Work with KACEE to produce a final report/case study highlighting accomplishments, outcomes, impacts, challenges and lessons learned which will serve as a resource for other schools who wish to start school gardens in Kansas by **March 31, 2017.**

**REVIEW
PROCESS AND
CRITERIA**

The Advisory team for the Youth School/Community Gardens Program will select three collaborative teams to participate, ideally representing the diversity of Kansas. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

ELEMENT	Criteria
Organizational Information and Description (50 points)	Proposal provides complete description of a diverse collaborative partnership that includes (1) a community organization; (2) a school; (3) a parent; (4) a local agricultural producer, and (5) up to three additional partners within the same community or otherwise geographically situated for ease of collaboration. The collaborative partners identify their unique contributions to the project and are ideal for the proposed project.
Audiences Served and Anticipated Impacts (25 points)	Audiences are clearly identified and appropriate for this proposed project. Educational and Community priorities are clearly identified, appropriate and reasonable for the proposed project. Anticipated outcomes and impacts are clearly identified and reasonable for the proposed project.
Organizational Capacity (25 points)	Clear and compelling description that identifies how and why the collaborative is well equipped to support a successful project. Lead Person (s) is identified and possesses the qualifications, as evidenced through their resume of the skills, knowledge and expertise to successfully lead their collaborative. Letters of support identify interest, need and commitment (as appropriate).
100 points	TOTAL

**INELIGIBLE
ACTIVITIES**

Grant funds may not be used for the following activities:

- Environmental “information” and/or “outreach” projects that have no environmental / garden education component.
- Advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action
- Lobbying or political activities
- Non-educational research and development; or
- Construction projects

HOW TO APPLY

- 1** Download the application from:
[http://www.kacee.org/files/Call for Collaboration Application for 2016 Growing Communities Grant.doc](http://www.kacee.org/files/Call%20for%20Collaboration%20Application%20for%202016%20Growing%20Communities%20Grant.doc)
- 2** Review the Request for Proposals document carefully and email a completed application. When saving your application, please save to a single electronic file, preferably in PDF format, although Microsoft Word files will be accepted. Please ensure that the filename includes the state abbreviation and name of the submitting organization or agency. For example “Smith High School proposal.pdf”
- 3** Save the completed application to one file to email. Email completed application, along with email letters of support plus a one page resume for key personnel to grants@kacee.org by no later than 11:59PM CST on **FEBRUARY 1, 2016**.

**QUESTIONS?
PLEASE DIRECT
ALL
QUESTIONS TO
YOUR STATE
CONTACT
PERSON**



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