

# Most Commonly Used Grant Questions

This document is a compilation of questions currently asked when applying for a garden grant from KidsGardening, Whole Kids Foundation, Big Green, Green Our Planet, and Captain Planet Foundation. Our organizations are actively working together to streamline grant applications and grant processes.

We are in the process of reviewing our application questions. Instead of waiting to have a complete and finalized list, we wanted to share our working document with you.

This document is a guide created by the above grantmakers. Having answers drafted to the following questions will help a youth garden program be prepared to complete a grant application. Each funding opportunity will use some, but not all, of the following questions. As such, be prepared for additional questions unique to each funding opportunity.

If you have any questions about this working document, please reach out to [grants@kidsgardening.org](mailto:grants@kidsgardening.org).

## Written Response Questions

These questions are asked by a majority of grantmakers. However, some grantmakers request answers to all of the following questions, and others only ask for answers to a few of the questions. Having answers prepared to these questions will help you prepare to apply for multiple funding opportunities.

**1. Needs and Challenges** - What needs, gaps, or challenges does your community experience that this grant will help address? e.g., financial challenges, environmental issues, safety concerns, health challenges, lack of community support, or regulatory hurdles.

**2. Mission and Goals** - What are your garden program's mission and educational goals, and how will this grant help achieve these goals?

**3. Youth Participation and Education** - How will youth engage with the garden? How will the garden support outdoor or experiential learning, or be integrated into the curriculum?

**4. Grant Theme Question** - How will you use your garden program to teach about \_\_\_\_\_? (e.g., local food, nutrition education, environmental sustainability, edible gardens, etc.)

**5. Garden Site** - What does the garden site look like? e.g., sunlight, water access, soil type, pests, planting zone, storage, etc.

**6. Garden Plan** - What will your proposed new garden or garden expansion include? e.g., raised beds/in-ground, learning spaces, structures, types of plants, etc.

**7. Budget** - How will you use the grant funds? Provide an itemized budget of how you will use the funding.

**8. Success Measures** - How will you measure the success of your garden program? e.g., garden-based teacher surveys, youth appreciation/consumption of fruits and vegetables, etc.

**9. Leadership** - Who is on your garden program's leadership committee or team? List the individuals and the experience (e.g., lived experience, professional, horticultural, etc.) each leader contributes to your garden program.

**10. Community Support** - How will you engage your community in the garden and integrate the garden into the community culture and identity? e.g. volunteers, donations, partnerships, etc.

**11. Maintenance** - How will you maintain the garden in the fall, winter, spring, and summer?

**12. Sustainability** - How will you sustain your garden program financially over time? For example, how will you generate funds?

## Other Garden Program Questions

A few grantmakers also ask for the following information.

- Type of Program (new or established garden)
- Type of Garden (edible, pollinator, hydroponic, etc.)
- Youth Frequency in Garden (months, weeks, hours, etc.)
- Upcoming Garden Events and Activities
- Garden Annual Budget
- Garden Harvest (used in classes, sent home with participants, donated, etc.)
- Culturally Relevant Programming
- Indigenous Practices
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practices

## Contact and Organization Information

All the grantmakers ask for some level of contact and organizational information. Here is a list of the most commonly requested information.

- Primary Contact Info
  - Name
  - Job Title
  - Email

- Phone Number
- Organization Name
- Organization Type
  - If a school, district name and total enrollment
- Garden Program Name
- Location Name
- Address
- Website
- Location Description (rural, urban, suburban)
- EIN
- NCES Number
- 501c3, Tax-Exempt Status, and/or Fiscal Sponsor Information
- Number of Youth
- Youth Identities and Demographics
- Free and Reduced Lunch %, Low-Income %, or Title 1
- Grant Funding Received The Past Two Years

## **Attachments**

All the grantmakers ask for some supplemental materials to be provided with your application. Here is a list of the most commonly requested attachments.

- Photos of the Garden Site
- Photos of Youth Participating in the Programming
- Garden Map/Dimensions
- Letter of Support from the Applying Organization's Leadership
- Letter of Support from a Partner Organization
- W-9
- IRS Letter of Determination
- Fiscal Sponsor Letter
- ACH Form

## **Optional Questions**

A few grantmakers ask some optional questions at the end of their grant applications.

- Applicant Demographics
- How You Heard About the Grant