



2016 Outdoor Edible School Garden Mini-Grant Program

Sponsored by
Ledge Light Health
District
and
ACHIEVE New London
County Coalition



Action Communities for Health, Innovation and Environmental Change

NEW LONDON COUNTY – OUTDOOR EDIBLE SCHOOL GARDEN MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

GRANT CRITERIA INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

I. Project Objective

It is well known that many children fall short of the daily recommended intake of fruits and vegetables, don't know where their food comes from and have never had the opportunity to experience growing their own food. School-garden based programs show promise as a method of hands-on learning that promotes and increases fruit and vegetable consumption among school-aged children. In fact, research supporting school gardens has prompted the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to recommending school gardens as an important strategy for improving the diet of millions of children in the United States.

The Outdoor Edible Garden Mini-Grant Program, sponsored by ACHIEVE New London County is designed to support New London County schools, by offering “seed” money from which to launch their own edible garden initiative. This year, spring 2016, up to four mini-grants of up to \$500 - will be offered to schools in New London County. It is the intention of the Outdoor Edible Garden Mini-Grant Program to provide educational opportunities to elementary – high school classrooms that will improve nutrition and connect children more closely to the foods they eat, especially for children of low-income families.

In 2014, a New London County School Garden Network was established, for the purpose of supporting the work of school garden coordinators, sharing and leveraging resources, hosting learning opportunities and professional development, developing curriculum and launching farm to school activities. It is the goal of the ACHIEVE Coalition that every school join the Network and participate in “growing” school gardens across the county. While pre-school programs are not eligible for funding this year, we hope to increase funding for preschools in the future. Preschool program are however, encouraged to join the New London County School Garden Network.

II. Criteria for Elementary, Middle and High Schools

- **Funding will only be available to schools that have not received funding in the past.**
- Funding may be used for garden equipment and materials, e.g., tools, fencing, raised beds, hoses, seeds, compost, curriculum, policy development, etc.
- The garden must be located on or adjacent to the school site.

- The project must be a member or join the New London County School Garden Network.
- The project should be advised by the UConn Extension Service – Master Gardener Program, the New London County School Garden Network or FRESH New London
- A school garden team must be formed and include teachers and parents, and work cooperatively with outside community organizations, churches and civic groups
- Funding may not be used for livestock, butterfly gardens, non-food producing gardens or nature trails
- School garden projects must have a full-time school staff assigned
- Preference will be given to schools with high enrollment of free-or-reduced meals or be located in USDA identified food deserts
- Preference will be given to those schools that integrate school gardens with the common core curriculum and the school nutrition/food service program

III. General Information about the Mini-Grant

An Allocation Committee will evaluate each application before grants are awarded. Notification of acceptance or rejection of application will be delivered in writing. Funds will be awarded by Ledge Light Health District, fiduciary agent for the ACHIEVE Coalition through a grant made possible by the CT Dept. of Public Health Prevention Funds.

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2016.

Selected schools will be notified by March 25, 2016.

IV. Matching Funds

Each grantee will provide a match of 100%, either in funding, in-kind support, or a combination of both. The following is a list of resources that may be able to provide matching funds for the Outdoor Edible School Garden:

- Nurseries, garden shops, hardware stores, etc.
- Local foundations and partners, i.e., Community Foundation, PTO, etc.
- Local agricultural businesses and organizations
- Fund-raising activities, i.e., selling seeds, plant sales, harvest dinners, etc.
- In-kind support, i.e., equipment, labor, materials, etc.

V. Questions

Any questions regarding the Outdoor Edible School Garden Mini-Grant Program should be directed to the following contact at Ledge Light Health District – Cindy Barry, Senior Program Coordinator, cbarry@llhd.org or 860-448-4882 ext. 302

APPLICATION FOR THE
OUTDOOR EDIBLE SCHOOL GARDENS
MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

School Information:

Name of School: _____ Average daily attendance: _____

School Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Project Coordinators:

Name(s) and email addresses of coordinating teacher(s):

- _____
Primary point of contact _____ Email _____
- _____
Name _____ Email _____
- _____
Name _____ Email _____

Phone number where the point-of-contact can be reached to discuss plans:

School phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Advisors:

Agricultural, school garden or other advisors (advised by the UConn Extension Service – Master Gardener Program, the New London County School Garden Network or FRESH New London)

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Partners and Cooperating Organizations:

Funding Request:

- Value of matching sponsorship (please include specifics on in-kind gifts): \$ _____
- Please list matching funds and/or in-kind support items:
- Amount of grant money you are applying for: (Maximum amount is \$500)
\$ _____

Project Plans:

On an attached sheet(s) of paper, please describe and/or outline your project plans. Please include a timetable, what you plan on growing, your specific need for funding, curriculum correlation and any visuals you would like to add (i.e., drawings, illustrations, maps, photographs, etc.)

Please include answers to the following questions:

1. How will the garden be used to improve academic progress in the areas of common core competencies? (please specify grade level and subject)
2. What is the number of students that will participate in garden activities?
3. What community partners will you work with to establish and sustain the garden? And, how might they make a contribution to the project?
4. How do you see parent participation in the project?
5. What level of intensity and involvement will students have in the garden?
6. How will the larger community or surrounding neighborhoods be involved?
7. How will you maintain initial enthusiasm?
8. How will the garden be maintained during non-school days?

School Principal Signature**Coordinating Teacher Signature**

Send Applications to: Cindy Barry, ACHIEVE New London County Coalition
Ledge Light Health District 216 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320

For more information call 860-448-4882 ext.302 or email: cbarry@llhd.org