



ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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Ontario Horticultural Association Community Garden Grant

The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) encourages its member societies to create or contribute to community gardens whether urban or rural. The OHA will award a grant of \$500 each to two eligible societies to assist with the funding of a new community garden or the upgrading of an existing community garden.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

For the purposes of this grant, a community garden is defined as a plot of land, either publicly or privately owned, that is used primarily to grow food for gardeners and/or the surrounding community. Either the whole space is communal or each member maintains a plot. Members may or may not pay a fee, but the garden must have a communal aspect such as shared maintenance, donations of produce to a local charity or social activities.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A society, in good standing, applying for this grant should play a specific role in the creation or maintenance of the community garden involved either acting as the lead organization or as a member of a collaborative of partnering organizations.

The community garden must be:

- Accessible to the wider community
- Involve broad community participation
- Primarily focused on local food production

Keeping Ontario Beautiful



WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

Eligible expenses:

- Tools, materials and equipment that are directly used in the completion of the project (raised beds, accessible planters, etc.)
- Site development costs and services
- Facilities and structures (washroom, composting area, water harvesting area, shade structure) that support the gardening activities of the members

WHAT CANNOT BE FUNDED?

Ineligible expenses:

- Operating or administration expenses associated with the development, implementation and completion of the project such as staff salaries, computer equipment, refreshments, travel costs, etc.
- Flower-only garden projects (See Special Project Grant), seeds or transplants, trees (see Tree Grant)
- Garden accessories or signage
- Marketing materials

OVERALL CRITERIA FOR START-UP OR EXISTING COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Be non-profit
- Written permission of landowner to use the site
- Demonstrated garden plan which includes descriptions of how the garden will be developed/upgraded, how the garden will operate and how the garden will be maintained
- Garden plan should identify the role of the horticultural society applying for the grant and a list of other community organizations that are involved in the garden
- Certificate of liability insurance
- Garden budget

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Interested societies can complete the application form and submit to your District Director who must submit the signed form to the OHA Awards Coordinator by February 28th. Be sure to include copies of landowner's permission, garden plan, a certificate of liability insurance and your garden budget.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Successful garden grant applicants will be required to submit a completed report form along with itemized original receipts and photos of the completed project to the OHA Awards Coordinator before December 31st of the next year. For example, a grant awarded in 2017 must have its completed report with receipts and photos submitted by December 31st of 2018. Otherwise the OHA will assume that the community garden project has not been completed and the grant monies will be cancelled. **NO funds will be released without itemized receipts.**

NOTE: Recipients of this award may only receive this award once.