



GET GROWING AND GET FARMING
MINI-GRANT PROGRAM



Health Forward
FOUNDATION



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CULTIVATE ^{KC}



KCCG
KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY GARDENS



The Get Growing and Get Farming mini-grant program began as a collaboration between Cultivate Kansas City, Lincoln University Extension, Kansas City Community Gardens, and Health Forward Foundation. It provided both technical assistance and funding for mini-grant awards up to \$3,000 to help growers start or expand their farm, farm business, or garden and ultimately create greater access to healthy food.

BACKGROUND

In 2011 Health Forward approached Cultivate Kansas City, Lincoln University Extension, and Kansas City Community Gardens about the idea of including a “mini-grant” component in their pending proposal. This idea stemmed, in part, from the increasing number of small-scale, urban farming, and gardening proposals Health Forward was receiving at the time. These proposals did not fit into Health Forward’s existing focus areas and included subject matter outside of Health Forward’s expertise. In practice, the mini-grant concept would utilize the technical expertise of the three organizations to systematically evaluate proposals, make mini-grant awards, and provide technical assistance to grantees throughout the process — from idea conception to project completion. This represented both better stewardship and more efficient use of Health Forward resources.

At the time, there was a high volume of requests coming from small urban farmers, neighborhood organizations, faith-based groups, and other nonprofits seeking assistance with urban farming and gardening projects.

\$150,448.77

INVESTED

91

PROJECTS

\$180 – \$3,000

GRANT RANGE

\$1,635

AVERAGE GRANT AMOUNT

353,801 sq. ft.

INCREASE IN FOOD
PRODUCTION SPACE*

** This estimate likely underestimates the actual amount of production space added due to missing data from multiple projects.*

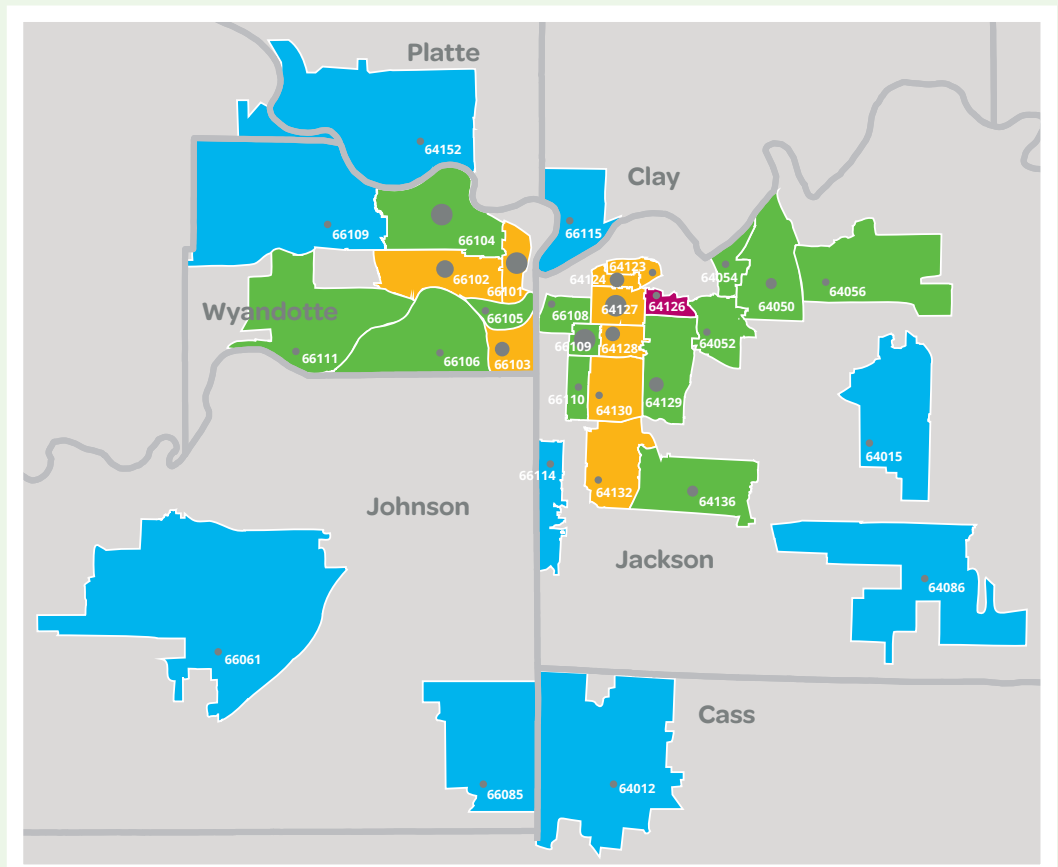
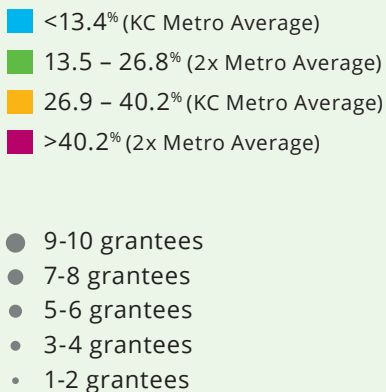
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Get Growing and Get Farming included a combination of technical assistance and funding for small projects for gardeners and farmers.

The majority of grantees used the funds to establish new garden space, invest in productivity and efficiency strategies, and purchase small equipment. Additional garden space was created at new and existing locations through in-ground plots, raised beds, and perennial plots including orchards and berry patches.

The technical assistance component of the program enabled the lead partner organizations to provide support to grantees throughout their involvement with the program. This support included helping grantees conceptualize ideas, complete the grant proposal and budget, and select and source materials. They also provided assistance with project implementation, linked growers to additional resources, conducted site visits, assisted grantees with final reports, and provided workshops for grantees and the community-at-large.

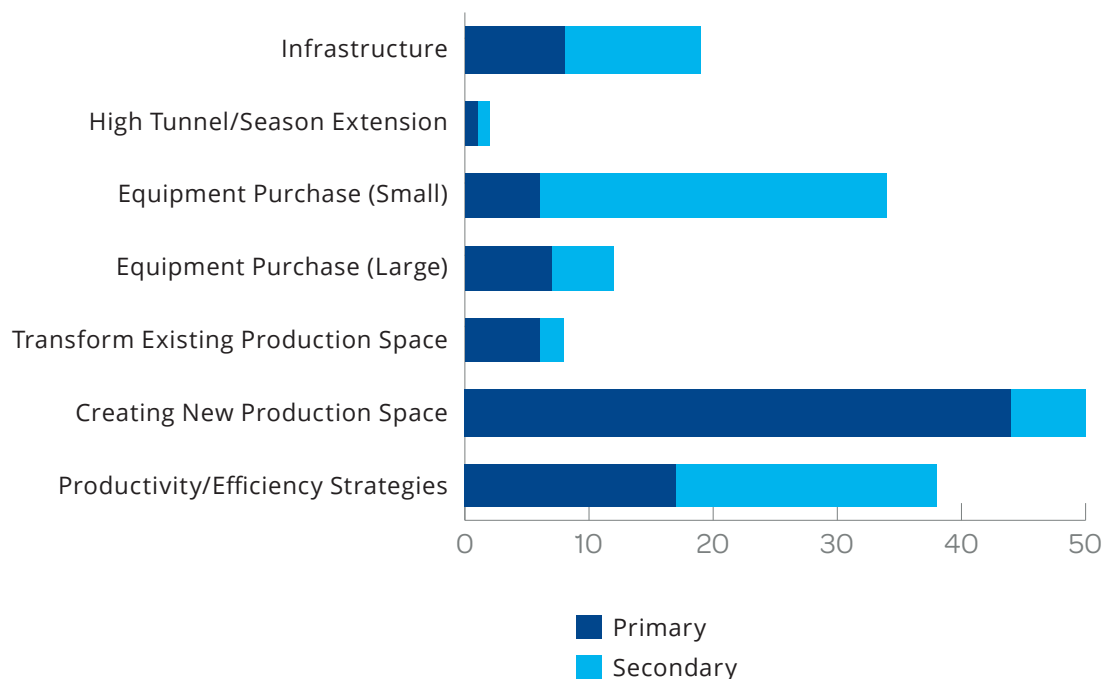
Number of Grantees per Zip Code by Percent in Poverty



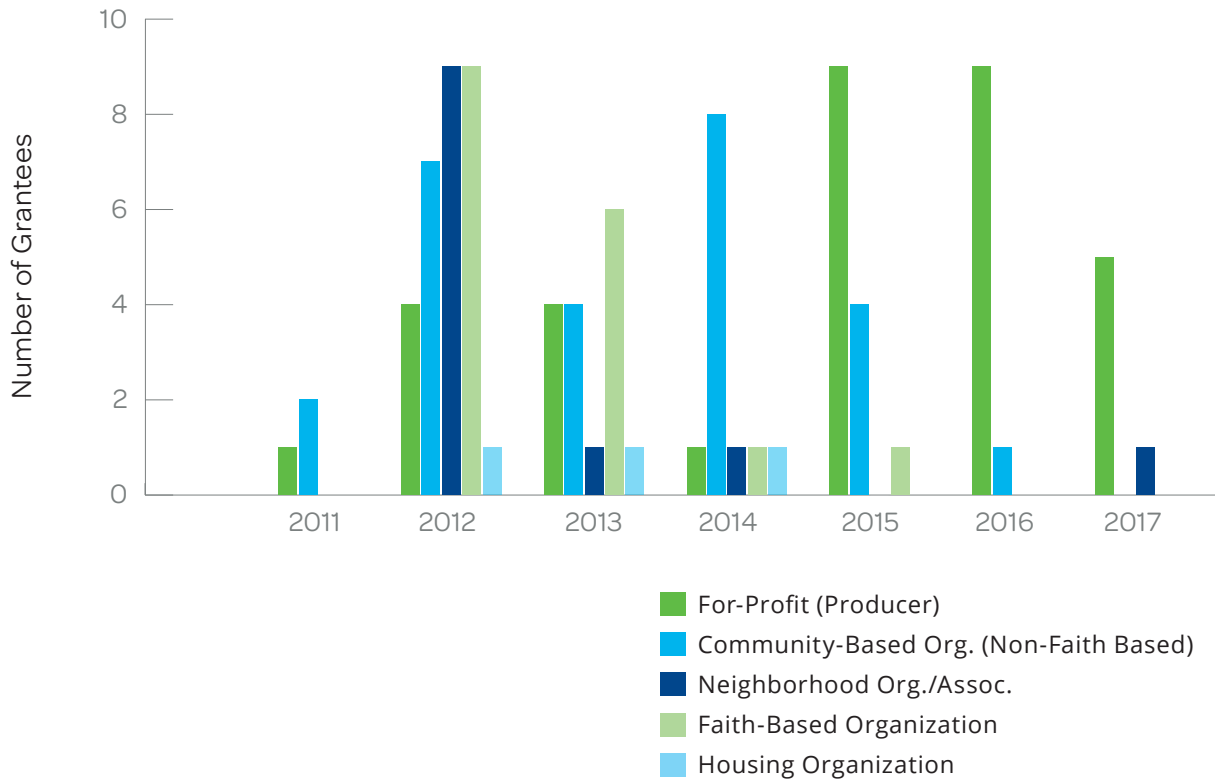
Description of Grant Activities

Infrastructure	Activities and materials relating to the built environment, including fencing materials, tool sheds, and raised beds.
High Tunnel/ Season Extension	High tunnels or other materials/structures used to extend the growing season.
Equipment (Small)	Smaller garden implements like hand tools, push mowers, and string trimmers.
Equipment (Large)	Larger gardening implements like riding lawnmowers, walk-behind tillers, and tractors.
Transform Existing Production Space	Creation of new production space through establishing gardens and farms; expanding production space at existing sites.
Productivity/Efficiency	Activities and materials with the primary goal of improving resource management, production, storage, and/or distribution, including drip irrigation, bringing water service to a site, making soil improvements, and adding cold storage.

Grantee Project Activities



Grantee Types by Cohort



FINDINGS

- For many, Get Growing and Get Farming was their first experience with applying for and managing a grant. The encouragement and assistance grantees received, and the partnership in conceptualizing projects, helped move ideas into fundable activities.
- Funding provided by the grant was a critical part of reducing barriers to getting started or attempting new production strategies.
- Some grantees leveraged grant funds to purchase more expensive items. In some cases, this allowed grantees to purchase and build larger on-site cold storage units, washing stations, high tunnels, additional raised beds, and a sensory garden. In other cases, growers were able to grow new crops or use new growing techniques.
- The grant contributed to building community by using gardens as an opportunity for people to get together and connect.
- Grantees mentioned issues related to the physical and built environment and the connection and proximity that individuals had to the communities where projects were located.

LESSONS LEARNED

Some challenges for **growers** included...

- Being new to grants
- Managing grant expectations
- Language barriers

Some challenges for the **lead partners** included...

- Feeling pressure to do more
 - Outreach to underserved communities
 - Assessing completed projects
-

For the **growers**, Get Growing and Get Farming provided...

- Accessible, critical funding
- Exposure to new ideas
- Opportunity to innovate
- Technical assistance

For the **lead partners**, Get Growing and Get Farming provided...

- Better communication
- Stronger collaboration
- Clarification of roles
- Expanded reach

For **Health Forward**, Get Growing and Get Farming provided...

- Stewardship of grant funds
- Expanded reach



HealthForward.org