



The KC Grow: Water Access Program helps Kansas City, Mo., community groups and farmers access water for their gardens and farms. Increased water access makes it easier to grow more food in Kansas City, increasing the amount of nutritious food available in our community.

What is KC Grow?

KC Grow is a \$100,000 grant program sponsored by the City of Kansas City, Mo., and administered by Kansas City Community Gardens, with technical assistance from the Get Growing KC Team.

This program assists community gardens and farms in Kansas City, Mo. They are defined as follows:

- **Community gardens:** A group of people gardening in the same place with the purpose of growing food for their families and/or community members. Typically this group is, or is working in partnership with, a 501(c)3. Produce from community gardens is typically not sold. If a small amount is sold, proceeds are used to fund the garden's operation.
- **Farms:** Individual(s) growing in order to sell their produce. Farmers typically are not part of a 501(c)3 organization.

How can KC Grow help my community garden or farm?

As urban gardeners and farmers turn vacant lots and lawns into productive growing space, they often face water accessibility and affordability issues. KC Grow can help resolve these issues in your garden or farm by:

- assessing the amount of water needed to sustain your garden or farm
- evaluating water access options
- connecting you to resources that will best meet your garden or farm's water needs
- providing small grants to help you implement the recommended water access strategies

How do I participate?

1. Visit tinyurl.com/KCGrow and fill out the "Request for Information" form.
2. Our team will contact you to discuss your water needs and schedule a water audit. A water audit is a process that analyzes your farm or garden's water use, plot size and the area's average annual rainfall.
3. Your completed water audit will recommend ways you can increase water access and affordability for your garden or farm. It also provides best water practices and sources; soil improvement and conservation recommendations; best mulching practices; and water budget estimations.
4. If you need help funding the water audit's recommendations, you can apply for a KC Grow Small Grant. Please note: a water audit is required to apply for a grant.
5. Our team will help you implement your water access plan.

What are KC Grow Small Grants?

KC Grow Small Grants help gardeners and farmers implement their water audit recommendations. You may request a KC Grow Small Grant application after you complete a water audit.

The grants fund the following:

- rainwater and storm water catchment systems
- municipal water line tap and hydrant installation
- spigot meter and PVC connection
- water pumping systems
- drip irrigation systems

Other water access projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis if they are recommended on the water audit.

Grant funds can be requested to cover 90 percent of your project. For example, if you apply for a water tap that costs \$5,000, you may request \$4,500 in Small Grant funding. You will need to pay the remaining \$500.

You must demonstrate the ability to pay the remaining percentage of your project cost.

If you apply for a municipal water line tap and hydrant installation, you must own the land where the hydrant will be installed or have a minimum of a five year lease and written consent for the tap and hydrant from the land owner. Proof of land ownership, such as a title or tax bill, must be included in your application. Our team members can help you if you need assistance establishing a lease.

If you belong to a community garden group, you will be asked to upload a copy of your group's 501c3 status with the grant application. If your community garden is not a 501c3, a fiscal sponsor that is a 501c3 can be used. A team member can assist you with this process.

If you are a farmer, you will be asked to upload a State Retail Sales Tax License and sales records on the grant application. If you do not have either one of these, a team member can help you determine if you're eligible to apply.

When are applications due?

If your Small Grant request is **less than \$1,000**:

- Requests will be reviewed each month by the Small Grant Review Committee from June 1, 2014 through April 1, 2015, or until grant funds are expended.
- Requests submitted by the first of each month will be reviewed and awarded by the 15th of that month. Requests submitted after the first of the month will be considered the following month.

If your Small Grant request is **more than \$1,000**:

- The Small Grants Review Committee will review requests three times per year and award as scheduled:

<u>Deadline for application</u>	<u>Small Grants Awarded</u>
June 27, 2014	July 25, 2014
September 26, 2014	October 28, 2014
February 27, 2015	March 27, 2015

KC Grow Small Grant applications will be considered on a yes or no basis. This means that if you apply for \$7,500, you will either be awarded \$7,500 or \$0. Since grants are reviewed on a yes or no basis, we recommend that you apply for one water audit recommendation at a time, starting with the recommendation you most need.

If you apply for funds to implement more than one



strategy recommended in your water audit, please keep in mind that your implementation plan will need to be equally strong on all the strategies; a weak plan for one aspect of the plan may result in the entire proposal not being funded.

If you are not awarded, you may apply again the next cycle.

Once I've received a grant, what are the reporting requirements?

- If you are selected to receive a Small Grant, you will be asked to complete a Grant Award Agreement. Grant funding will be issued within one week of Kansas City Community Gardens receiving your agreement.
- A reporting form will be given to you with your award notice. You must use all funding and submit your reporting form within six months of completing the Grant Award Agreement.
- All receipts for your purchases made with grant funds must be submitted with your report.

What will KC Grow Small Grants not fund?

- Home gardeners and gardeners not part of a community garden
- Non-edible gardens, as grants are intended for growing food
- A garden or farm's water bill
- Garden and farm projects not included in the water audit recommendations
- Garden landscaping projects



For more information, contact:

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