

Program Overview (V3)

Program Overview Form Information

The purpose of the Program Overview form is to provide information regarding the program and service(s) proposed by your organization.

Guidelines:

Information should be based on the proposed contract/agreement period.

Information provided should be for the entire program, not just the portion proposed to be contracted/funded by the Boone County, City of Columbia, and/or the Heart of Missouri United Way.

Each narrative response should be clear and succinct.

Information provided in the Program Overview form must correspond with the information provided in the Program Service form(s).

Instructions:

The issue(s) and affected population(s) should be described and documented utilizing objective, relevant information, and data, from sources outside of your organization and should include geographic information using recognized political boundaries (e.g. city, county, state, national). Every effort should be made to utilize information from the Boone Indicators Dashboard.

All sources of information should be properly cited using the American Psychological Association (APA) Style of author-date method of in-text citation. All sources that are cited must appear in the reference list at the end of this form.

Resources:

Boone Indicators Dashboard (<http://booneindicators.org>)

For detailed information regarding the APA Style, please visit the APA Style web site: <http://www.apastyle.org/>

* Indicates Required Field

Statement of Issue Being Addressed

a. Describe and document the community-level issue(s) to be addressed by the proposed program (e.g. homelessness, child abuse & neglect, substance abuse, suicide, etc.), utilizing objective, relevant information, including data from the Boone Indicators Dashboard (BID) <http://booneindicators.org/>. (1500 character limit)

Four issues are being addressed: 1) social equity 2) food insecurity 3) the need for adequate garden space in low-moderate income neighborhoods and schools, 4) the need for a support network providing supplies and knowledge to enable productive food gardens.

Columbia's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan identifies reducing poverty and improving social equity as major goals. Performance measures for this plan include enumerating "neighborhood social activities", "community gardens" and "a tool to develop a baseline of existing neighborhood levels of access to healthy

eating and active living opportunities" -- the CGC provides elements of each measure.

Food insecurity, a primary feature of poverty, reduces social equity through nutritional deficits that limit educational and workforce performance. According to Feeding America (2019), 15.5% of Boone County residents are food insecure and 15.2% of Boone County children live in food insecure households. Additionally, 38% of those considered food insecure make too much money to qualify for federal food assistance benefits.

b. Describe the population(s) in the City of Columbia and/or the Boone County area affected by the issue(s) to be addressed by the proposed program, utilizing objective, relevant information, including data from the Boone Indicators Dashboard (BID) <http://booneindicators.org/>. (NOTE: HMUW applicants may include Cooper and Howard County data in this field.) (1500 character limit)

Social inequality, poverty and food insecurity affect a wide range of groups in Columbia, including minorities, refugees, students, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Families that experience poverty to varying degrees and those with limited access to grocery stores, either due to a disability or lack of transportation, are the most likely to experience food insecurity.

In Columbia, 20.7% of people fell below the poverty level, compared to 13.4% for the state of Missouri (Boone Indicators Dashboard, Community Profile). As noted above, food insecurity affects 15.5% of Boone County residents and 15.2% of Boone County children live in food insecure households. Additionally, 38% of those considered food insecure make too much money to qualify for federal food assistance benefits (Feeding America, 2019).

The home ownership rate in Boone Co.(54.8%) is lower than the state average (66.9%) (US Census Bureau, 2018). Those who rent, including apartment dwellers, are less likely to have access to arable ground. Additionally, between 2013-2017, 55.7% of renters were considered "housing cost burdened," spending over 30% of their income on housing, compared with 46.3% for the state (Boone Indicators Dashboard, Community Profile, using adjusted figures).

Program Goal

State the goal(s) of the proposed program. The program goal(s) should correspond to the organization's mission statement and major goal(s), as stated in the Organization Profile. (300 character limit)

The Community Garden Coalition seeks to provide support, supplies and garden plots to community gardeners, seeking especially to help lower-income individuals, the elderly, people with disabilities, and children and others who might not be able to have a garden on their own.

Program Overview

Provide an overview of the proposed program. (1500 character limit)

The CGC serves as a hub for community gardening activity in Columbia, providing 3 primary services: 1) help starting, and then sustaining a network of community gardens; 2) linking potential gardeners with existing gardens; and 3) encouraging fresh food donations to local food pantries, shelters, and kitchens.

Community gardens may be organized as neighborhood gardens, with plots for individuals and families; group gardens, where the entire space is maintained collectively by a group; sharing gardens, which donate all produce to a food security agency or program; or school/youth gardens used by parents, students, and teachers. Explicit in our mission is support of gardening opportunities for people with limited incomes and/or disabilities, the elderly, and youth.

With regard to starting and sustaining a network of community gardens specifically, the CGC provides free, ongoing consultation to groups seeking to

start community gardens. We will meet face to face, communicate via phone and email, provide them a free copy of the MU Extension's Community Gardening Toolkit, and link them to resources such as the Master Gardeners program. We provide initial and ongoing support by offering advice and technical assistance; funds for supplies and equipment; sharing bulk purchases and donations of seeds, transplants, compost, and mulch; sharing equipment such as tillers, lawn mowers, and weed eaters; and covering the cost of liability insurance.

Program Consumers

a. Describe the consumers who will be served by the proposed program, including characteristics and demographics. (1500 character limit)

Many people seek out community gardens because of a desire to garden alongside and learn from their neighbors, or to share the expense of tools and other gardening supplies. The age, ethnicity, income, and disability status of these people vary considerably. This diversity contributes greatly to the richness of the community gardening experience.

Our gardens serve a range of audiences, in part because of the locations of gardens and partnering agencies that sponsor gardens. For example, the majority of neighborhood gardens are located in Columbia's diverse 1st ward. These gardens are accessible to a large proportion of residents with lower incomes and minority populations. Gardens located at Paquin and Oak Towers serve a population of both elderly and disabled gardeners. Likewise, the St. Joseph St. Garden, a partnership with Boone County Family Resources, serves neighbors and disabled clients from BCFR. Youth and school gardens, operating in partnership with Columbia Public Schools serve children under the age of 18. Members of the refugee community are served through a partnership with Broadway Christian Church. The garden leader at Claudel reports increasing numbers of non-English speakers representing African and Latin American, Middle-Eastern and Eastern European nationalities. The Ash Street Garden leader reports large numbers of gardeners from Asia and many gardeners at our Friendship Baptist Garden are low-income minorities.

b. Why will these particular consumers be served? (1500 character limit)

These populations will be served because of the proximity of the gardens and the partnerships that support the gardens. In addition, the CGC strives to publicize community gardens through local media, outreach efforts, our website, word of mouth, and good signage at each of the neighborhood & group gardens. Furthermore, with little to no fees, and with many inputs provided free of charge, none are excluded from community gardens for lack of money. The CGC board also prioritizes projects that benefit and serve our target audiences. We fund construction of raised beds to serve individuals with limited mobility; we provide support to school and youth garden projects with a high proportion of students receiving free or reduced price lunches. We coordinate with garden leaders at Oak and Paquin towers, which serve the elderly and people with disabilities, to make sure their gardeners' needs are being met.

The Board communicates directly with our garden leaders monthly via email and encourages leader and gardener participation during monthly, open meetings and annual events. In this way, the Board of Directors stays responsive to gardener needs.

c. Describe any impediments or challenges in serving these consumers. (600 character limit)

Communication with many gardeners is constrained, either by lack of access to media or by language barriers due to the growing number of non-English speakers among those we serve.

Privately owned land used for community gardens is subject to redevelopment and may be destroyed by the landowners' decision to develop or redevelop the parcel.

Charitable donations, while sought, are unreliable and limited, and we lack paid staff dedicated to fundraising.

Board members, garden leaders and gardeners are, all, volunteers.

Increasing water rates and climate variability are additional challenges.

d. Total number of unduplicated individuals to be served by the proposed program:

1250

The field below will auto-populate once the Program Budget section is complete. This calculation is based on the total number of unduplicated individuals to be served, as indicated above in item d. and the total program expenses as indicated in the Program Budget section to be completed below.

e. Average program cost per individual

9.61

Consumer Demographics Instructions

Complete the Residence, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Income, and Age sub-sections below to the best of your knowledge. The purpose of this section is to provide detailed demographic information for consumers to be served by the proposed program service(s) over the period of time as defined in the RFP. The totals for all sections should be identical.

All counts are for Unduplicated Individuals. No individual should be counted twice under any sub-section.

Information provided in the Consumer Demographic sub-section should correlate with the information provided in the rest of the proposal.

*Indicates a required field.

Residence

Boone County (includes City of Columbia residents)

1250

City of Columbia

0

Cooper County

0

Howard County

0

Other Counties

0

Residence Total

1250

Record Lock

1

Race

White (alone)

442

Black or African American (alone)

425

Multiple Races

66

Asian (alone)

298

Native American Indian or Alaskan Native

2

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (alone)

4

Some Other Race

13

Race Total

1250

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

20

Not Hispanic or Latino

1230

Ethnicity Total

1250

Gender

Female

212

Male

187

Other

5

Gender Total

404

Income**At or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level**

622

Over 200% of Federal Poverty Level

628

Income Total

1250

Age (City-Social Services/County-Health/HMUW-RFP)**Under 5 years**

115

5-19 years

554

20-59 years

397

60 years and over

184

Age Total (1)

1250

Program Access

a. Provide details on the location, days/hours of operation (e.g. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.), and any other logistical information for the proposed program. (600 character limit)

Space does not allow us to list the addresses of the 33 member gardens in the CGC. A complete list can be found at <https://comogardens.org/gardens/>. CGC gardens include a combination of neighborhood, group, and school gardens. Only one garden, Claudel Lane, is owned by the CGC; land for the rest is provided free of charge by private owners, government, social service organizations, schools, or religious organizations. The neighborhood and group gardens are widely scattered, although a majority are concentrated within the city's first ward. Obviously, school gardens are also scattered.

b. Describe the eligibility criteria (e.g., income, age, etc.) to be utilized for determining eligibility for the proposed program. (600 character limit)

Anyone wishing to garden at a CGC member garden is welcome. We have no eligibility criteria.

c. Will program consumers be charged a fee for the proposed program service(s)?

Yes

Provide a description of and rationale for the program fee. (600 character limit)

At this time, the Community Garden Coalition, as an organization, does not charge a fee. However, two community gardens have instituted nominal fees (\$20/household) to help cover the costs of equipment and supplies.

Will the proposed program utilize a sliding fee schedule?

No

Provide a rationale explaining why a sliding fee schedule will not be utilized. (600 character limit)

We are considering a sliding fee scale for select member gardens where we pay for the water but have not worked out the details at this time. Presently, we plan to make more overtures for donations.

Program Quality

a. Describe any external requirements of the proposed program and/or service(s), such as licensing, minimum standards, etc. (600 character limit)

N/A

b. Is the proposed program and/or service(s) currently accredited by a recognized accrediting body?

No

Provide the name of the accreditation agency. (300 character limit)

N/A

c. Are there best practices and/or standards for the proposed program and/or service(s)? Best practices and standards should be cited from reputable sources.

Yes

Indicate, cite, and describe the available best practices and/or standards. (600 character limit)

Our service model follows community development principles, emphasizing inclusionary, asset-based capacity-building to empower clients. We provide structure, but encourage groups to decide their own rules, leaders, how tasks are shared and how transition happens. Annual "Leader Meetings" cover administrative tasks, budgets and training, and we distribute a Community Gardening Toolkit (McKelvey, 2009) which includes strategies for organizing and sustaining community gardens in a variety of settings.

d. Is there evidence to support the efficacy of the proposed program and/or service(s)? Evidence must be up-to-date and scientifically-based and should be cited from scholarly research reports published in peer reviewed journals or from credible government sources.

Yes

Identify, cite, and describe the evidence. (1500 character limit)

A publication written by the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (Lucht and Rice, 2012) titled Community Gardening-A Review of the Research Literature reviewed 63 articles or reports on the efficacy of community gardening. The publication identified five major themes in the articles reviewed. The themes included evaluation, health promotion and nutrition, social networks and connectedness, community development, and social justice and the politics of land use. The impacts of community gardening range across these themes. Notably, the research indicates that community gardening can positively affect property values, improve access to high quality food (especially in low income neighborhoods), increase contact and cultural awareness between diverse cultural groups, and serve as a catalyst of community integration. The review of literature also validates the efficacy of the community development approach taken by the CGC. For example, research indicates that gardens are more successful when they are user-driven. Further, the research confirms that long-term access to land and access to infrastructure such as water and important for the sustainability of gardens.

Provide a rationale for utilizing the proposed evidence-based program and/or service(s). (1500 character limit)

We believe that our approach is appropriate based on the aforementioned evidence and the fact that we are all volunteers and rely on a shared leadership network.

e. Describe any unique or innovative aspects of the proposed program that enhance the quality of the program. (1500 character limit)

Recently, CGC instituted 2 annual events that improved garden leader participation and satisfaction. The mid-winter Garden Leader Appreciation Dinner features door prizes and a pizza dinner. Attendance at this event continues to increase and leader response to gardener concerns and Board requests have significantly improved. The other event, a seed packaging party, occurs annually to glowing praise and participation. Dinner is served and then followed by the re-packaging of bulk seeds for distribution to CGC gardeners during the annual "Spring Thaw" event that is held late February. The Board has authorized annual increases in expenditures for transplants, compost and straw, the latter two being vital to sustained vegetable production through Missouri summers. We have added Spanish translations of our main gardener documents and have made them accessible on-line. We have increased our educational activities both on-line through a series of gardening blogs and at events. Most importantly we worked with the City's Water and Light Board to institute a waiver on the Tier 3 summer water rates for qualifying community gardens. Finally in an effort to increase not only the utility but the attractiveness of some of our gardens we funded new raised beds at Russell Elementary, a seating area at D.H. Crum, raised bed repairs at Ash Street, and equipment purchases and upgrades at Circus Lyon, Claudell, Ann Street, and Ash Street Gardens.

f. Describe the quality improvement process utilized for the program. Quality improvement is defined as systemic and continuous actions that are used to measurably improve services and program consumer outcomes. (1500 character limit)

On a monthly basis, the board president invites garden leaders to introduce board meeting topics and attend board meetings as they are able. This gives the board the opportunity to hear about concerns and areas for improvement on a regular basis and make decisions about how to address issues. In addition, twice a year the board takes stock of gardener household information and performance measures during the biannual reporting process.

g. How will consumer feedback be collected for this program? Describe how this information will be utilized to enhance service(s) and help with program outcomes. (1500 character limit)

Consumer feedback is primarily obtained via garden leaders who report issues directly to the board. In some cases, garden leaders will forward the above mentioned monthly email to their gardeners enabling gardeners to propose meeting agenda items and attend meetings. For school and youth gardens, the annual information form provides a chance for them to describe successes and challenges they've had during the year.

Collaboration

Describe any partnerships or collaborations that enhance access to and/or the quality and effectiveness of the proposed program and/or service(s). (1500 character limit)

Currently, the CGC collaborates with a range of organizations including the Columbia Housing Authority, Columbia Parks and Recreation, Columbia/Boone County Dept. of Public Health and Human Services, Columbia Fire Dept., Columbia Storm Water Utility Education Program, Columbia Public Schools, Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board, Heart of America Master Gardeners, Boone County Family Resources, Congregation Beth Shalom, Newman Center, Rockbridge Christian Church, Broadway Christian Church, Memorial Baptist Church, Friendship Baptist Church, The Columbia College CouGarden, University of Missouri Child Development Lab, MU School of Agroforestry, University of Missouri Extension Boone County, Centro Latino, the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, Center for Sustainable Living, land owner Mark Stevenson, and Boone County Food Policy Council. These collaborations allow the CGC to connect with people in need of garden space from a diverse segment of Columbia residents, and demonstrate support for the CGC's goals from many organizations within our community.

If MOUs or contracts/agreements related to the proposed program and/or service(s) are in place, please upload these documents in a PDF format (1):

If MOUs or contracts/agreements related to the proposed program and/or service(s) are in place, please upload these documents in a PDF format (2):

If MOUs or contracts/agreements related to the proposed program and/or service(s) are in place, please upload these documents in a PDF format (3):