

Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota GRANT GUIDELINES & CRITERIA

REQUIREMENTS

All projects seeking grant funds must support the mission of FGCM Inc.:

“FGCM will provide education, foster communication and support our members in their endeavors to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility.”

In addition to the specific goals of the project, all projects must :

- Advertise Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota and incorporate efforts to recruit new members.
- If non-member volunteers are recruited, they could be offered complimentary club membership for one year after which they should be encouraged to become dues paying members.
- Get community support through donations. Examples: Plants, seeds and gardening materials from garden centers or others. Space in which to create gardens, teach classes, hold meetings. Use of garden equipment from individuals, rental agencies, or garden centers. Advertising space or time on local TV or Radio stations. Cash.
- Have educational components. All educational material in printed form or presented in classes must be research based. Not anecdotal – (‘Aunt Bertha’s bug remedy.’)
- Be open to the public and/or publicly visible. Be widely advertised in a variety of media. If the project focuses on a select population, all members of that population must be given an opportunity to participate.
- Each club must commit some of their own funds & member participation to the project.
- Include an evaluation plan with measurable goals.

In addition, clubs are strongly encouraged to partner with other agencies or organizations. Public or nonprofit agencies, local businesses, other gardening or horticulture groups such as Master Gardeners, MN State Horticulture Society, environmental groups, etc.

- **AMOUNT OF GRANTS:** Grants may be awarded for up to \$1,000. A project may get all, none or a portion of what they request. Applications must indicate what the group will do if they do not get the grant or if they do not get all that they requested. Will they still do a portion of the project or on a smaller scale?
- **TIMELINE:** Submit the application form to the State Grants Chairman, **Betty Beck** beflower40@gmail.com by **February 1st**. Applications may be submitted electronically or by hardcopy. Postmark must be by the due date.
Grants will be awarded at the FGCM Inc. Annual meeting in April.
Final reports will be due Nov. 1 or within 3 weeks of the end of the project.
- **ELIGIBILITY:** Only Clubs that are members of Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota are eligible to apply for FGCM grants. Groups of clubs such as Garden Councils or affiliated clubs may also apply as long as each group is a member of FGCM.
- **APPLICATION FORMS:** The Application Form is available on the FGCM website and from the State Grant Chairman (**Betty Beck: beflower40@gmail.com**)

- **LENGTH OF APPLICATION:** Grant applications are limited to 4 pages printed on one side. Additional pages of photos are allowed. Budgets do not count towards the 4 pages allowed.
- **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE RETURNED:** Keep a copy of the application and all supporting materials for your records.
- **CONTINUING FUNDS:** If a grant is awarded for one phase of a project, the group may reapply for future grants to continue or expand the project, but continued support is not guaranteed.

POINTS FOR FGCM Grants

Presentation 5 pts.-neat, concise, includes all required information on the FGCM Grant Application Form. Gives a clear understanding of the project.

Impact 50 pts.- Short- & long-term benefit to the public or the intended population. Attention to the requirements listed above. Leveraging of community support. Expected impact relative to the amount of funds requested. An appropriate evaluation plan. Is the project realistic? Evidence of careful planning. Evidence of the experience needed to succeed.

Participation 35 pts.- Involvement of club members, other volunteers, community & government agencies, businesses, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, others.

Documentation 10 pts.- Supporting data - Clear, well-labeled and neatly attached, photographs of proposed sites if applicable, landscape plans if appropriate (does not have to be professionally drawn), budget (include expected sources of all donations - material and cash), Written statements of commitment to participate from other organizations and groups. (A printed email is acceptable.) Sample written materials if available.

The categories listed below are based on those in an award program sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. They are included as a source of ideas. Your project does not have to exactly fit one area – it may combine elements from several areas of interest or could be something not included in this list.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

CS-1 Community Gardens- providing green space, and/or opportunities for social gatherings, beautification, education, recreation or the growing of food.

CS-2 Making a permanent improvement for public benefit, e.g. establishing sanctuaries, children’s gardens, municipal gardens, etc.

CS-3 A gardening resource center, maintained by members, provides services to the community, Library on plants and gardening, lectures furthering FGCM objectives, classes, exhibits, trial gardens, youth involvement, networking with other civic organizations. Include days/hours center is open to public and all activities held at center.

CS-4 Food Bank Donations-Create a garden(s) that donates a significant quantity of freshly grown food to a food bank, pantry or other organization providing food to those in need in a community. Please provide verified quantity information from the organization receiving the food in your evaluation. (Receipt, letter of acknowledgement, etc.)

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

CB-1 Roadside Beautification Roadside beautification. This grant will be given only once for the same project.

CB-2 Community Beautification A beautification project in a city, town, or a neighborhood, done on a continuing basis or as a special one-time event. Could include Habitat for Humanity homes. This grant will be given only once for the same project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND CONSERVATION

EC-1 Conservation activities, legislative activity; conservation field project; natural resource development, such as a watershed, erosion control, reforestation, wildlife refuge.

EC-2 Community project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling, e.g. organizing recycling program, establishing community composting site, etc.

EC-3 Conservation education. Must be research based.

EC-4 Birds- for bird protection and welfare, e.g. sanctuaries, providing food, houses, and education relative to bird welfare.

EC-5 Pollinators- Project on pollinating insects or animals e.g. habitat protections, protection of migratory routes, public education, establishment of pollinator gardens at a school or community site, etc.

EC-6 Water Conservation- Project with an emphasis on water conservation and/or clean water.

EC-7 Organic Gardening Practices Project emphasizing and employing the use of organic materials and methods in a gardening project or educational activity.

EC-8 Hydroponic Gardening - Project emphasizing and employing the use of hydroponic methods in a gardening demonstration project or educational activity.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HP- 1 A historic preservation project such as the restoration of a park or garden of importance to local, state or national heritage.

GARDENING

G-1 Therapy Gardens. The establishment or restoration of a garden to benefit the physically or learning challenged, residents in nursing homes, schools, prisons, low-income housing, cancer centers, etc. Includes barrier free gardens, accessible gardening, community gardens, meditation gardens at a hospital, etc. It could be a garden where residents are actively involved in planting and maintenance or simply a place where visitors can contemplate the beauty of nature in a peaceful setting.

NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS

NPW-1 - Roadside Plantings for environmental preservation and enhancement of roadsides and rest areas using wildflowers and plants native to your region. Projects may be located on rural byways, urban highways, roadside rest areas, entrances to towns, medians, boulevards, etc.

NPW-2 - Civic Projects with native plants for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, etc. in public spaces or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on plant materials native to your region.

NPW-3 - Outdoor Classrooms, Nature Trails, wildflower walks, etc. with the emphasis on wildflowers and plants native to your region.

FLORAL DESIGN

FD 1 – Sponsor, coordinate and produce a Flower Show in a community that has not recently (5 years) had one. May include a horticulture competition. Must adhere to National Garden Clubs guidelines for flower shows as set forth in the Handbook for Flower Shows published by NGC.