



BMORE Beautiful Presents:

Project FEED-Urban Gardening Academy

Program Guidelines

Overview: Project FEED- Urban Gardening Academy Grant is designed to provide resources, education, and capacity building assistance to increase food security and support initiatives that will expand local food production through community farming and gardening. Food insecurity is linked to a myriad of challenges in historically disinvested neighborhoods, particularly poor health, lack of civic engagement, and higher crime rates.

BMORE Beautiful's Urban Gardening Academy- Project FEED (Fresh Eats in Every District) is a pilot program that aims to support Community Managed Open Spaces (CMOS) in the City's 4 quadrants that focus on the production of produce to address food disparities in their neighborhoods by increasing access to affordable and culturally diverse food sources.

Qualified non-profit organizations are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 to begin and/or expand resident and community led urban gardening initiatives that supports a neighborhood's food production capacity in areas facing food insecurity.

Eligibility & Expectations: Project must be neighborhood driven. The leadership must come from residents directly affiliated with the community. The project must have a team of at least 3 people to proceed, and those people should be committed to assisting with this program for *at least 12 months*.

Applicants must meet all the following conditions:

- The applicant must be a registered 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization and in good standing with the State of Maryland, per the State Department of Assessments and Taxation website
 - If the applicant is not a registered 501(c) 3 the applicant must identify a fiscal sponsor that is a registered 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization that is in good standing with the State.
 - If the applicant has a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must provide a letter of support.
- The organization's principal place of business must be in Baltimore City. If using a fiscal sponsor, that fiscal sponsor must also have a location in Baltimore City.
- Provide a 990-N



- All activities and expenditures under this grant must be provided in Baltimore City.
- Activities can only take place on Mayor City Council owned lots, community owned lots, or lots that are protected by Baltimore Greenspace.

All applicants must provide proof of a current Adopt-A-Lot license from DCHD, Right of Entry, or proof of community ownership and or protection by Baltimore Greenspace.

Priority for funding will focus on:

- Mayor and City Council owned lots with a valid and active Adopt-A-Lot license or Right-of-Entry
- Increase access to culturally diverse food in areas that meet the City's guideline for food deserts:
 1. A neighborhood where the distance to a supermarket is more than a ¼ mile
 2. The median household income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 3. Over 30% of households have no vehicle available.
 4. The average Healthy Food Availability Index (HFI) score for all food stores is low.

(For a map and district reporting visit: [Mapping & Data | Department of Planning \(baltimorecity.gov\)](http://Mapping&Data|DepartmentofPlanning(baltimorecity.gov)))

- Organizations that plan to provide gardening, nutrition, and educational opportunities for residents.

Program Requirements:

PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES: Applicants can receive up to \$10,000. That funding can go toward gardening supplies and basic tools (like seeds, soil, spades, plant markers, garden forks, etc.). If creating a new urban garden, participants are required to purchase at least **four** "garden bed kits". A description of a standard kit is included. This expense must be included in your budget.

Applicants can also use funding toward special projects, such as composting, beekeeping, or water access through the Department of Housing and Community Development. Applicants cannot use funding toward paying staff salaries, cost of transportation, or stipends.

All funded activities, including the completion of required Urban workshops, must be implemented within 12 months.



WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE: All participants in our cohort must attend at least **six** Urban Gardening Academy workshops. These workshops will be a mix of in-person and virtual opportunities. The workshops will be hosted by BMORE Beautiful and in partnership with content experts. These workshops are tiered, starting with Core Workshops, Intermediate Workshops, Advanced Urban Garden Workshops, and Supplementary Hands-on Garden Assistance.

All participants must attend all **four** Core Workshops and a Community Garden Sustainability Planning Course. Intermediate Workshops, Advanced Urban Garden Workshops, and Supplementary Hands-on Garden Assistance are not mandatory and may also be open to the public.

Optional opportunities may include hand-on training and installation. *If you plan to specialize your garden, it is important to consider the costs of those materials, and whether to include them in your proposal and budget.*

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING: BMORE Beautiful has partnered with a local gardening expert, Dr. Nathaniel Adams, who will help grantees create a specialized sustainability plan to maintain their space. All participants will have 2 consultations. The consultations will last 1 hours and will result in a work plan document, which will be provided to the participant by the end of the program.

Mentoring: Building community within BMORE Beautiful is important to the growth, development and sustainability of Project FEED. Grantees will be paired with a “mentor” from our inaugural cohort. The mentor will serve as an additional resource for new cohort members. Mentors will lead at least one workshop during the cohort year, provide guidance for new cohort members as they prepare for sustainability planning and support the “mentee” by volunteering at the least garden event. Mentors will also attend at least one activation event hosted by the mentee.

REPORTING: There will be two reporting dates. There will be a mid-way report and a final report. Reports will include spending information, garden challenges, planting plans and progress, harvest data, community engagement, and updates on sustainability.

Key Dates

- **March 11, 2026 (6:00-7:00):** Project FEED Interest Meeting. This 1-hour virtual meeting will introduce Project FEED to interested parties. The meeting will review key components of the pilot, including but not limited to the application process, consultation opportunities, urban garden academy requirements, reporting and a brief Q&A. Please register at: [Project FEED Interest Meeting 2026 Tickets. Wednesday, Mar 11 from 6 pm to 7 pm EDT | Eventbrite](#)



- **March 16 -April 17, 2026:** Application Window
 - ***Applicants must submit application by 5pm on April 17, 2026.***
 - During this time, applicants are encouraged to reach out to BMORE Beautiful for consultation. This includes but is not limited to technical assistance capacity evaluation, project planning, and lot eligibility and confirmation.
- **April 20-April 24, 2026:** Application Evaluation/additional site visitation (if needed)
- **May 1, 2026:** Grant Agreements/Notifications
- **May 8, 2026 by 5pm:** Grant Agreements/Workday Registration/W9 Due
- **November 9, 2026:** Midway report (Report to include :spending report, details of Fall activities, challenges, Spring Planting Plans (crops, volunteer requests etc.)
- **May 14, 2027:** Final Report

Application Basics:

Applicants are required to follow the content requirements and submission instructions listed within the application. **Applications will be considered incomplete if any part of the section is missing.** This application will require basic information about the application (and/or their fiscal sponsor), a project description and proposal narrative, a list of all individual participants, and a budget breakdown.

The budget for this proposal should contain detailed itemized cost information for all expenses. It is important to note that your budget should include confirmed outside funding sources and any kind donations. **If you have applied for other grants, but the award has not been confirmed please do not include.**

Your budget must reflect your ability to complete your project with the resources/funding that you currently have access to.

If your organization is using a fiscal sponsor, please be sure to include the fiscal sponsor fee in your budget.

Applicants must provide the following **required** documents:

- 501 (c) 3 IRS Tax-Exempt determination Letter
- Current Adopt-A-Lot License, Proof of Community Ownership, Proof of Baltimore Greenspace Protection
- If applicable, confirmation of additional funding sources
- Pictures of current lot conditions
- 990-N



- Proof that you have informed you Neighborhood Development Officer (DHCD) that you are seeking grant funds. (Copy of letter/email submitted)

If you are using a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must provide the following information:

- 501(c) 3 IRS Tax Exempt determination letter (Please note that the selected fiscal sponsor must operate in Baltimore City)
- 990-N
- Letter of support. (Letter must be submitted on official letterhead)