

5 Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh Social Justice & Outreach Committee

Vegetable Garden Grant Application

Background Information

In recent years, several organizations have been working together to start new vegetable gardens to meet the needs of urban and suburban residents who have limited access to fresh produce and healthy food supplies. In 2025, the Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) will once again offer small grants to support the efforts of creating and sustaining neighborhood vegetable gardens. We hope to create supplies of locally grown produce for our neighbors in need. Depending on the location and circumstance, we expect that such produce will be distributed through local food pantries or parish-based outreach efforts.

These grants are intended to support diocesan Episcopal parishes and organizations to create new vegetable gardens or to support an already functioning garden with small material needs such as: seed or plant purchases, fencing, bed construction, soil or fertilizer purchases, soil testing costs, hand tool purchases, water connections, rain barrels, etc. *These grants are not intended to support an exclusive or private garden, nor one used solely for decorative purposes.* We have prepared a guide to setting up a small garden, available by emailing Pat Eagon (below). Should your garden be selected, implementation will be in late spring, 2025.

The maximum grant request for this program should be no more than \$500. The SJO Committee expects to fund at least three grants. Priority will be given to those applications that plan to start new gardens, but we will also consider applications seeking to sustain existing gardens that meet the eligibility described below. Funds are to be used in the calendar year 2025 unless an extension is submitted and approved by the SJO committee. Applications are due via US Mail postmark by April 1, 2025 or electronically (preferable) by April 7, 2025.

Who is eligible?

In order to be eligible for this grant, the parish or organization should have:

- 1) a oversight committee of several organized and motivated gardeners
- 2) an already-identified garden location, owned by the parish/organization, or to be used with written permission of its owner(s).
- 3) a primary contact person/coordinator of the garden
- 4) a plan regarding crops, maintenance, and harvesting
- 5) designated recipients of the products of the garden.
- 6} a commitment to submitting a year-end report summarizing implementation of funds and success/challenges of the garden project.

To apply:

Applications should be submitted by mail (postmarked April 1, 2025) or electronically (preferable) by April 7, 2025:

Electronically to both:

Pat Eagon (pkeagon@gmail.com) and Marianne Novy (mnovy@pitt.edu)

By mail:

Attn: Marianne Novy/ Vegetable Garden Application
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

APPLICATION FOR SJO GARDEN GRANTS: space may be increased as needed

Contact Information

Primary Contact Person:

Parish or Organization:

Mailing address:

Daytime Phone:

Contact: Which mode of contact do you prefer? Choose one or both options.

Phone

Email

Garden Location:

Approximate garden dimensions:

Land owner:

Please tell us about your proposed garden. What is its purpose? Who will benefit?

Will the garden be used for educational purposes? If so, describe.

Who will take part in gardening and how will people be organized?

How is information dispersed to participants or to those who may wish to participate?

Will neighbors be involved with the garden?

Garden Needs/Proposed Budget:

What materials will your organization need to purchase to launch or sustain the garden?
Please describe and give approximate costs.

If your garden is a recipient of this grant, a site visit by members of the SJO committee can be requested to assist with planning of the garden, to be scheduled with your group as needed.

By signing below, you certify that you will be a regular participant in the work of the garden at the location above and would like your garden to receive financial assistance from the SJO Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. *You also certify that you or a member of your organization will submit a year-end report summarizing implementation of funds and success/challenges of the garden project.*

Printed names:

Signatures:

Primary contact/head of garden committee

Parish clergy member or senior warden