



## **Green Home Grants for Gardens,**

*Grants offer help to community garden projects*

*Jill Reitz*

*February 21, 2012*

Urban farming, a burgeoning trend across the nation, is now getting a little more help from two local sources. The Kansas Community Gardens Project and the Get Growing Kansas City campaign are both offering grants to groups interested in bringing local produce into community backyards.

The Kansas Community Gardens Project is a new statewide initiative funded by the Kansas Health Foundation and operated by K-State Research and Extension. The project will provide up to \$5,000 for up to 20 community gardens in each of the next three years.

“A lot of communities want to start gardens or need things for their new gardens to get themselves over that hump; whether it is needing water lines dug or equipment,” said project coordinator Evelyn Neier. “We hope these grants will allow people to start or expand.” Applications for the first round of grants are due March 1, but interested residents and nonprofit groups can start now putting together detailed plans for next year. “We are looking for gardens that will serve the community at large,” Neier said. “It needs to be as inclusive as possible.” Another effort, the Get Growing Kansas City campaign, is offering mini grants of up to \$3,000 to urban farmers and gardens. The campaign is a two-year partnership between Cultivate Kansas City and Kansas City Community Gardens. Priority is given to growers serving low-income communities. The deadline for the next round of Get Growing grant proposals is Aug. 1. “Our goal is to get more people growing food,” says Ben Sharda, executive director of Kansas City Community Gardens. “We will come and help people figure out how to turn their space into a community garden including how much it will cost to do so.”

Get more information at [getgrowingkc.org](http://getgrowingkc.org) and [kansascommunitygardens.org](http://kansascommunitygardens.org).

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/22/3442642/grants-offer-help-to-community.html>