

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

NEW ENGLAND

40 Avon Street, Keene, NH 03431-3516 | 603-357-3122 | www.antiochne.edu

December 8, 2015

Dear Potential Garden Partner,

Keene Community Garden Connections (CGC) is excited to announce another opportunity for local organizations and agencies in Keene to apply to become CGC garden sites! This opportunity has been made possible through the continued funding from the Rashti Foundation. With their generous support, Antioch University New England (AUNE) has partnered with many organizations in the work of developing 11 garden sites in Keene. The sites have been bountiful and our gardeners have been involved in many activities that connect them to their communities. We will be seeking more partners to host garden sites during the school year of 2016-2017 and encourage you to apply.

Prior to filling out the application, please take a few minutes to read through the following information. These details will provide you with a sense of what we at CGC can offer you through this funding as well as give you an understanding of what we expect of the garden site partners throughout the project. Please note that multiple agencies may collaborate to share one central site.

What we offer:

Each garden site will be supported by AUNE graduate students serving as Garden Site Coordinators, who will offer initial support as funding liaisons, project assistants, and informal educators. The student coordinators provide education and guidance that will develop your ability to establish, tend, and enjoy garden harvests. Our goal is to provide everything that you would need to continue to care for your garden in subsequent years. (CGC Coordinators will still continue to provide support in subsequent years, but in a reduced capacity). In addition to this support role, Garden Site Coordinators will:

- Purchase garden tool kits which consists of building materials, garden tools, seeds, soil, and related educational supplies
- Assist in planning the garden and design fun educational events and/or garden programming
- Coordinate gardening and educational workshops for garden participants and staff, based upon interest and need
- Host a “Harvest Fest” event, involving CGC garden sites as well as the broader Keene community
- Work with your gardeners to make sure that they are learning and enjoying the opportunity
- Connect your agency and participants with garden related resources in our region
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What we expect of you:

For the gardens to be successful and to ensure their continuation beyond the funding period, it is essential that agencies hosting gardens can commit to the following:

- Involve **at least** one staff member that will serve as the Garden Site Coordinator and five participants in all phases of garden development (from planning to upkeep to harvest)
- Provide a logistically suitable site, with access to safe gardening space and water
- Ensure long-term viability and active engagement of participants in the garden creation, maintenance, harvest, and educational programming
- Engage in evaluation of programming and events
- Attend (**at least** one staff and two participants) three spring 2013 “Garden Connections” workshops
- Participate in **regular** (weekly or bi-weekly) on-site meetings to discuss challenges and opportunities.

Please contact us at communitygardens@antioch.edu or visit us at <http://www.antiochne.edu/cgc/> if you have questions regarding the project. Thank you for taking the time to apply. We look forward to reviewing your application. If you have not already received an electronic copy of the application and would like one please email us with your request.

Mail to:

Libby McCann
 Antioch University New England
 40 Avon St.
 Keene, NH 03431

Email to: communitygardens@antioch.edu

Whether or not you choose to apply, please share information on CGC with other organizations you think would be a good fit and might be interested in creating a garden. Thank you for helping to spread the word!

Thanks,

The Community Garden Connections Team:

Jennifer Trapani MS Environmental Studies, Environmental Education, 2017	Benjamin Currotto MS Environmental Studies Environmental Education, 2017	Cynthia Espinosa Marrero MS Environmental Studies, Environmental Education 2016
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cc: Steve Jones, President, Antioch University New England
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