



## **Morgantown Area Community Garden Initiative Proposal**

### **Background**

The West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WVDOH) is preparing to improve Greenbag Road by widening the road, adding sidewalk, and installing roundabouts at two poorly performing intersections. This project will eliminate an existing community garden that serves the residents of the surrounding area.

The WVDOH reached out to the MMMPO to assist with the mitigation or the impact of this project. The MMMPO worked with the WVU Center for Resilient Communities; the MMMPO contacted several other interested parties to develop a strategy to mitigate the impact of the Greenbag Road project. This proposal was prepared as a cooperative effort with the WVU Center for Resilient Communities, the WVU Campus Garden, the City of Morgantown, the Monongalia County Commission and the MMMPO.

### **Proposal**

Community Gardens aid in combating food insecurity and food deserts. Monongalia County suffers from food insecurity and the area around downtown Morgantown is a food desert. To address these needs, the partnering agencies are proposing to create a community garden pilot program named: "Morgantown Area Community Garden Initiative." This program will establish garden spaces within the City of Morgantown and the surrounding urbanized area of Monongalia County. The Morgantown Area Community Garden Initiative will provide funding to individual organizations through a competitive application process to be run by the City of Morgantown in cooperation with Monongalia County through the Morgantown Monongalia MPO. The application is attached to this proposal. The lead contact, Jackie Peate, is available to aid applicants throughout the process. Applications should be emailed to the lead contact by submittal date.

The WVDOH will provide \$15,000 to be distributed to at least three (3) community organizations, Public Consortium (HOA or Similar), or groups who will be awarded up to \$5,000 to meet the goals provided. Community organizations, Public Consortium (HOA or Similar), and groups are welcome to apply for smaller grant amounts, allowing for the creation of more than three (3) gardens. For example, there could be five (5) organizations awarded \$3,000 each, \$5,000 is the maximum that can be awarded per organization.

*A sample budget for a \$5,000 grant is provided below:*

Garden construction (Raised Garden bed supplies, garden shed materials): \$2,000

Soil and amendments: \$1,000

Fencing, signs, labels, water source, miscellaneous garden supplies: \$1,500

Supplies for produce harvesting/packaging: \$250

Plant and seeds: \$250

Total: \$5,000



## **Structure**

Applications will be open to groups beginning in late February. A link to the application and information will be available on the MMMPO & City of Morgantown website and social media platforms. A Steering Committee will be selected with two (2) members appointed by the MMMPO and two (2) members appointed by the City of Morgantown. This Committee will review applications and award funding based on a Selection Criteria, which will be made available to applicants. See Key Dates below for information on the timeline.

Awardees will be required to meet reporting requirements and to present a progress report on their activities and the status of the garden to the community garden selection board, MMMPO representatives and representatives of the City of Morgantown, the Steering Committee, or the appropriate municipality depending on the location of the garden. Awardees will be required to report back for two years once they have received funding.

The City of Morgantown will be responsible for documenting the use of the funds per the COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT between the MMMPO and the City of Morgantown. After two years, this project will be considered completed. If the City of Morgantown or another entity wishes to continue this project, they may do so, but the project will be considered complete after that time. The announcement of selected projects on the MMMPO and City of Morgantown websites will trigger this two-year timeline. Payments will be dealt with based on independent organization.

## **Key Dates**

- Announcement release: *February 21<sup>st</sup> 2024*
- MMMPO & City of Morgantown Accept Applications: *1 week after Announcement release*
- Applications Close: *March 11<sup>th</sup> 2024*
- Steering Committee Review: *1 week after Applications close*
- Announcement of Selected Projects Online: *1 day after Steering Committee Review*

*\* Application consulting will be available during the time in which the applications are open. See Contact Information at the end of the application.*



## MMMPO & City of Morgantown Application for Morgantown Area Community Garden Initiative

Organization Information	
Name:	
Type of Organization (check one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> A unit of local government. <input type="checkbox"/> A nonprofit agency. <input type="checkbox"/> School Organization. <input type="checkbox"/> Public Consortium (HOA or Similar).	

Organization Representative	
First Name:	Last Name:
Email:	Phone Number:
Title (if applicable):	

Required Project Information Checklist (Please attach narratives)		
Project Name:		
Project Location:		
Narratives:		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Document</u>
___	___	Purpose/Need Statement
___	___	Timeline for Implementation
___	___	Summary of Project Benefit and Impact
___	___	Scope of Work
___	___	Project Map & Anticipated Layout (Staff Assistance is Available)
___	___	Land Ownership Information- Provide Lease Agreement
___	___	Letters of Support (optional)
Funding Information		



If awarded a grant, when will use of the funds begin? \_\_\_\_\_

Provide an itemized budget that outlines the estimated costs of your proposed community garden. Cannot exceed \$5000. Please attach any documentation available. (Use attachment if necessary)

If applicable, describe any additional resources or partnerships that will support the project's implementation. Please attach any documentation.

Please list any additional funding sources.

#### Verification

I hereby certify that all information provided in this grant application is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may result in the rejection of this application or the termination of any grant awarded based on this application.

Signature of the Authorized Representative:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date:



## Lead Contact

**MMMPO**

Jackie Peate, MPA  
Transportation Planner I

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## Further Contact Information

**MMMPO**

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Executive Director

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**City of Morgantown**

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## Selection Criteria and Scoring- Community Garden

<b>Criteria</b>
Beneficial location to community and surrounding area. (Accessibility)
All documents submitted thoroughly, complete, and on time.
Organization's experience with community gardens and other collaborative projects.
The candidates' understanding of the project's scope.
Organization's commitment to a sustainable and long-lasting garden.
Access to water (via MUB or other water source).