

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage

Grant Program Rules

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage (AMGA) may award grants up to \$500 to individuals and organized groups for gardening education or community gardening projects that promote the purposes of AMGA, including community education, responsible gardening practices, and promotion of volunteerism.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

The amount available for all grants will be determined by the annual AMGA budget.

WHO ARE WE?

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage (AMGA) is a volunteer organization qualifying under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code not-for-profit organization of gardening members who enhance and supplement the University of Alaska Fairbanks /Alaska Cooperative Extension Service (CES) horticultural programs.

OUR PURPOSE

AMGA provides continuing education and training in all horticultural areas, including food, flowers, trees and shrubs. We hold regularly scheduled informational meetings, programs and field trips to advance gardening knowledge among members, other gardening organizations and the public.

Members also volunteer their expertise to the membership and community to advance gardening knowledge and best practices in accordance with UAF/CES horticultural research.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The **Master Gardener Tuition Grant** is intended for:
 - Course, registration and materials fees for Master Gardeners training through UAF/CES.
2. The **Education Grant** is intended for:
 - Educational supplies and materials
 - Course, registration and materials fees for continuing education through course offerings through AMGA, UAF/CES, university courses and other horticultural workshops and conferences
 - Travel fees related only to training
3. The **Gardening Project Grant** is intended for:
 - Supplies and materials utilized in development, improvement and maintenance of a garden, including but not limited to topsoil, soil amendments, compost, seeds, plant materials and row covering
 - Gardening tools and equipment
 - Hardscape, including but is not limited to signage, fencing, gravel and water installation.

RATING CRITERIA

Grant consideration will be based upon the following criteria:

Master Gardener Tuition Grant

- Evidence of financial need
- Evidence of current registration in a CES-Master Gardener class
- Contribution to AMGA purpose
- Ability to complete the instruction within 12 months of the grant award and volunteer requirements for Master Gardener (MG) certification.

Education Grant

- Education received must advance the knowledge of and leadership in the Master Gardener community, especially in Alaska-related issues
- Value of educational product to be developed from training (e.g., newsletter articles, speakers' bureau, workshops, curriculum additions, etc.) to the Master Gardeners and gardening community at large must be detailed.
- Ability to complete education/training within 12 months of the grant award must be demonstrated.

Gardening Project Grant

Projects that show financial collaboration will be given priority, and projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award.

Eligible projects could, for instance:

- Broaden community access to gardening, especially underserved populations (for example: low income, youth, immigrants, and shelter populations);
- Beautify neighborhoods, which raises awareness of sustainable garden practices;
- Develop sustainable garden practices;
- Create and maintain educational and therapeutic gardens;
- Utilize volunteers in the project's development and ongoing sustainability;
- Create and strengthen relationships between gardening and community interests.

Education or Gardening Project and Financial Feasibility

The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed education or project is feasible based upon the particular grant's criteria and the goals of the AMGA. The applicant must also demonstrate that all funding needed to complete the education or gardening project has been identified, with a viable plan to secure funds beyond the grant request (where applicable); and that the proposed budget reflects reasonable costs based upon documentation and bid comparisons (where applicable).

Greater consideration will be given to projects that demonstrate financial collaboration. AMGA maintains the right to consider full, partial or no funding of a request.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Grant information can be downloaded from the AMGA website: alaskamastergardeners.org

The completed form should be postmarked by the due date and mailed to:

AMGA, P.O. Box 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

Or emailed: treasurer@alaskamastergardeners.org

Only applications that are complete, signed and dated by the individual or person qualified to sign on behalf of an organization will be considered.

All Education and Garden Project Grant Applications must be submitted by April 15 and/or another date to be determined and posted on the AMGA website. Education Applications may be submitted prior to registration for a CES-Anchorage Master Gardener class.

A due date for CES-Anchorage Master Gardener Tuition Grant Applications will be announced to registered students at the first meeting of each CES Master Gardener class in Anchorage.

EVALUATION AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each application will be reviewed for completeness. Eligible applications will be forwarded to the Grant Evaluation Committee, where they will be judged based upon the rating criteria.

Master Gardener Tuition Grant, Education Grant and Gardening Project Grant recipients will be notified by email within 30 days of the due date of the grant application request. Education Grants submitted for a CES-Anchorage Master Gardener class may be awarded prior to registration in the class, but will only be funded subject to registration in the class.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Recipients of Education Grants and Gardening Project Grants must give a visual presentation or written report on their project to the AMGA that can be included in the AMGA newsletter.
- Recipients of Education Grants and Gardening Project Grants over \$100 are to provide receipts for project expenses, if requested.
- Recipients of CES-Anchorage Master Gardener Tuition Grants must provide documentation of Master Gardener certification (including volunteer requirements).

TAX REPORTING

No grant recipient will receive more than \$500 in a calendar year.

Recipients should consult their tax advisors regarding reporting the grant and the tax consequences of receiving it.