

# Community Gardening Toolkit

## Toolkit Description:

A community garden is a piece of land shared by a group of people where fruits and vegetables are grown. Community gardens provide the ideal context for people to gain the knowledge, skills and experience needed to grow and prepare their own fruits and vegetables, which are foundational to a healthy diet. Community gardens also offer the added health benefits of physical activity and exposure to nature.

UA provides training, toolkits, and consultation to programs that are positioned to use community gardening to help people they serve learn how to grow and use fresh produce to support their long-term health and wellness.

**Core Services:** *Core services are the key offerings of a program most directly linked to program outcomes. That is, they are the things a program does that result in positive changes in the lives of people they serve.*

## Toolkit Training and Consultation:

Each community garden is unique and will support program outcomes in specific ways. Urban Alliance staff offers one-on-one training and consultation to program leaders and volunteers to help programs design their community garden in a way that aligns with program goals and assist program leaders with troubleshooting potential challenges. Depending on the location and needs of a given program, Urban Alliance may facilitate connections with community organizations that have expertise in gardening and can offer additional support.

## Requesting a Toolkit or Additional Printed Materials:

To request a community gardening toolkit, complete the forms indicated below and email them to [initiatives@urbanalliance.com](mailto:initiatives@urbanalliance.com).

## Toolkit Forms:

- **Community Gardening Toolkit Agreement**
- **Community Gardening Toolkit Planning Form**



## Community Gardening Toolkit Agreement

### Purpose:

UA provides training, toolkits and/or consultation to programs that are positioned to use community gardening to help the people they serve learn how to grow and use fresh produce to support their long-term health and wellness.

### Program Leader Responsibilities:

- Be in good standing (i.e. participate in a learning community, submit monthly data and follow program development opportunity policies)
- Have at least one program leader read the booklet, *“Urban Alliance’s 5-C Framework: Core Services”*
- Utilize the toolkit supplies exclusively for the purpose of starting, enhancing, or maintaining a garden, and return any supplies that are not used
- Have the capacity to pick up and transport ordered supplies to garden site
- Contact UA staff to request one-on-one training and/or consultation, and participate in any scheduled appointments or meetings
- If connected with a community organization with expertise in gardening, respond to communications in a timely manner and follow any policies established in partnership with that organization

### Urban Alliance Responsibilities:

- Provide a toolkit of gardening supplies based on the expressed needs of the program
- Coordinate one-on-one training and consultation from UA staff and/or content experts based on the expressed needs of the program

**Please complete a Toolkit Planning Form and attach it to this agreement.**

By signing this agreement, your church/organization agrees to utilize the Community Gardening Toolkit according to the criteria outlined above.

Church/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Community Gardening Toolkit Planning Form

1. How will community gardening be incorporated into the core services of your program? Will this toolkit enhance an existing community garden or help your program start a new community garden?

2. How will produce from the garden be used? Who will be the recipients of the produce?

3. Who will be responsible for starting and/or maintaining the garden?

4. Please describe the location and size of the gardening area.

5. Each program will need a unique toolkit of supplies based on what is needed to start and/or maintain their community garden. Please consider your community garden plan and indicate which items you would like to request as part of your toolkit.

Raised garden beds/large pots

Soil

Compost

Seeds

Shovel(s), rake(s), hand tools, gloves

Watering can(s), gardening hose, sprinkler

Fencing, garden stakes

Reference books or curriculum on gardening

Other:

By signing this form, your church/organization agrees to utilize the Community Gardening Toolkit according to the criteria outlined above.

Church/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_