

Sunnyvale Cares Nonprofit Grant Program Application Application

Deadline: June 30, 2020 by 5 p.m.

Thank you for your interest in the Sunnyvale Cares Nonprofit Grant Program. Please review the grant guidelines to determine if your organization qualifies for funding. Funding will be approved by the City Council in late July 2020. Applicants will be notified of award decisions in after City Council decision.

Complete applications may be submitted in the following ways:

- Mail or Drop Off in Person: Office of the City Manager (Front Desk) Attn: Economic Development 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
- Email: svcares@sunnyvale.ca.gov

For questions, email svcares@sunnyvale.ca.gov or call 408-730-7607.

Name of Nonprofit organization: Sustainable Community Gardens / Charles Street Gardens

Name of Individual Submitting Application: Fiona Walsh

Individual's email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Grant Amount Requesting from the City (Maximum grant amount is \$30,000): \$2800

Organization Background

1. When was your organization formed? 2006
2. What is your Mission?

We are a thriving organic community garden in the heart of Silicon Valley. Our friendly group of Sunnyvale residents share a love of gardening, value urban green space, and know the benefits of creating a healthy lifestyles for their families.

CSG contributes by beautifying our valuable neighborhood environment, providing year-round social and educational activities to the local community, and gives local gardeners and their families an opportunity to grow produce using organic and sustainable methods.

3. Approximately how many Sunnyvale customers are served annually?

We currently have 105 Sunnyvale residents who are members of Charles Street Gardens. Our classes and Plant Sale fundraising events are open to the public. We have several hundred customers who attend our Plant Sale events.

4. Describe your group's activities and the resources that support those activities.

Charles Street Gardens operates entirely by volunteers. Our members are responsible for tending their own garden plots, as well as volunteering to maintain the common shared spaces of the garden. We hold classes related to gardening throughout the year to provide education and outreach opportunities to the local community.

5. What is your annual budget? \$15,000

6. How do you raise funds?

We raise funds thru two primary paths: annual fees paid by our gardeners (\$95/year), and our Spring & Fall Plant Sale fundraiser events.

7. How many employees does your organization have?

We have no paid employees. We are an entirely volunteer run organization.

8. What steps has your organization taken to address budget impacts due to COVID-19?

We are planning to defer some of the maintenance projects we had planned to do this summer. Our garden beds are aging, and some of the beds have degraded to the point of being unusable. We may need to defer our plans to rebuild 10 beds this year.

9. Describe the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on your organization, specifically, what are the financial impacts?

We typically earn \$2700-\$3000 in our Spring Plant Sale, and \$1500-1800 in our Fall Plant Sale. For our 2020 Spring Plant Sale in April, although we weren't able to hold our regular event, we were still able to make \$1650 in plant sales. We estimate that we will make ~\$1000 at our 2020 Fall Plant Sale in September. Our total projected shortfall from our two 2020 Plant Sale events is \$2800.

10. For what purposes would this grant be used and how would it would benefit your organization and customers?

The funds from this grant will be used towards our regular operating expenses such as our water bill, insurance, and ongoing maintenance costs at the garden. We are planning to rebuild some of our garden beds that are aging and becoming damaged – earnings from our Plant Sale fundraiser events were to be used to purchase materials. Our ability to maintain regular operations at the garden directly benefits the Sunnyvale residents who enjoy the garden.

11. Any other information you would like the Council Committee to consider?

We have been able to maintain a safe space for our Sunnyvale-resident gardeners to enjoy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our gardeners have expressed their gratefulness to have a peaceful, natural outdoor space as a respite during the pandemic.