2012 APPLICATION FOR THE ALLEGHENY GROWS PROGRAM

I. Program Intent

Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) is currently seeking applicants for Allegheny Grows, a program of the Business Development Division that encourages community and workforce development through urban farming and gardening. Successful applicants will receive two years of technical support and supplies to develop self-sufficient community food gardens.

II. Eligibility

Open to organized, neighborhood-based groups, such as a non-profit, community development corporation, neighborhood association/watch group, educational or local government entity. Partnerships are encouraged but not required.

Eligible groups must:

- Qualify for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
  - For a full list of CDBG criteria, visit: http://economic.alleghenycounty.us/cdbg/ACLowModCensus2000.pdf
- Obtain permission to garden on property owned by a public agency or non-profit organization in Allegheny County and outside the City of Pittsburgh with:
  - A municipal water supply on-site (or the ability to install one)
  - Direct sunlight
  - Lead levels below 400PPM
  - Flat or gradually sloped terrain
- Show evidence of community and municipal support for the project
- Express a five-year commitment to vegetable gardening on-site
- Select a community leader(s) to spearhead the project

III. Timeline

August 15, 2011	Application materials available
September 7 & 12, 2011	Information sessions held
September 30, 2011	Postmark deadline for application materials
October 1-7, 2011	Application materials reviewed and finalists chosen
October 2011	Site visits and phone interviews conducted
November 2011	Projects awarded
December 2011	Community garden planning begins

ACED reserves the right to change the program timeline.

IV. How to apply

Groups interested in this project must attend an information session and prepare the following:

1. **Application.** Download a fillable PDF version of the application at ACED's website: http://economic.alleghenycounty.us/
2. **Information Session**. All potential applicants are required to attend *one* of the following information sessions:

   - **Wednesday, September 7, 2011 from 6:00-8:00pm in Millvale**
   - **Monday, September 12, 2011 from 5:30- 7:30pm in Wilkinsburg**

   Please call Sara Masullo at 412.350.1198 or email sara.masullo@alleghenycounty.us to RSVP.

3. **Organizational Chart.** A visual representation of your organization's leadership structure.
4. **Photos.** Three photos of the garden site.
5. **Soil Test Results.** From the garden site. Find soil testing resources at Grow Pittsburgh's website: http://tinyurl.com/3m38qdq
6. **Letters of Support.** From the municipality, garden site property owner and other support organizations, if applicable.
7. **Petition.** 30 signatures from neighboring residents and business owners who are in favor of the garden.
8. **Potential Participants.** A list of names and addresses of individuals who are willing to help establish and maintain the garden.

Groups interested in being considered should postmark or submit their completed application materials by Friday, September 30, 2011 at 4:30PM to:

Iris Whitworth
Project Manager
Allegheny County Economic Development
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 800
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

V. Selection Process

Once received and processed, all applications will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of ACED staff and partner organization representatives. Competitiveness depends on completeness of application and demonstrated ability to fulfill program expectations. Finalists will be selected for site visits and phone interviews during the first or second week of October. Results will be mailed in early November.

VI. Mission & History

Through a partnership with Grow Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny Grows provides education, planning resources and technical assistance for existing and newly developing community vegetable gardens in low-to-moderate income communities throughout Allegheny County. The mission of the program is to support and utilize community gardening activities to return vacant or underutilized land to productive use; provide a platform for community engagement; increase renewable sources of fresh produce; and educate the communities on running a community gardening initiative. In its inaugural year, McKees Rocks and Millvale were selected to participate in the pilot program. In 2011, Bellevue, Wilkinsburg and Penn Hills launched their initiatives. In subsequent years, Allegheny Grows will expand to at least two new communities per year.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call Iris Whitworth at 412.350.5594 or email **iris.whitworth@alleghenycounty.us**.

Allegheny County Economic Development — Coordinating Success

GROW PITTSBURGH

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy — water, land, life.