

GARDEN PARTNER PROGRAM OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS

What is the program?

The Raised Bed Garden (RBG) Program increases availability of fresh produce for households at risk of food insecurity by supporting garden installations and distributing seedlings to community partners, providing community education on growing your own food, and by fostering community around food and gardening.

Who is eligible to participate?

Organizations within Chester County, PA that actively engage households at risk of food insecurity are encouraged to apply. Preference is given to sites that demonstrate engagement of food insecure households, promote food justice rather than charity, and have reliable staff/volunteer support.

**Flexible participation
through 3-track model!**

	Garden Partner	*Distribution Partner	Education Partner
Site selection, building, and repair support for new or existing garden beds	X		
Receives growing supplies such as row covers, hoops, tomato stakes, etc. to support on site garden activities	X		
Order and receive seeds and seedlings from a comprehensive selection 3-4x per year	X	X	
Access to food and garden workshops, education programs, and mentorship throughout the calendar year	X	X	X

We mobilize and educate our community to ensure access to nutritious and familiar food.

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Program requirements

Garden Partners:

1. Commit to growing through 3 seasons: spring, summer, and fall (April-November)
2. Commit to using sustainable practices
3. Ensure adequate volunteer/staff support for garden maintenance
4. Adhere to program deadlines as determined by CCFB
5. Pick-up plants on designated days from designated pick-up spot (school partners may schedule educational planting days with CCFB staff who can bring plants then)
6. Attend 1 workshop/partner event per year
7. Donate at least 70% of produce harvested from CCFB provided plants to hunger relief agencies; food insecure households, or youth and community focused programs
8. Record and report pounds of produce harvested from CCFB provided plants, and send reports twice per season (mid-summer, end of fall)

Distribution Partners:

*This partner track is currently restricted to current (as of Fall 2025) CCFB Food Providers and Community Partners. **Distribution Partners are exempt from the membership fee.**

1. Commit to distributing ALL seeds and seedlings provided by CCFB at food distributions, community events, and activities for food insecure neighbors within ONE WEEK of pick-up
2. Ensure seedlings can remain watered and in sunlight until they can be distributed (can be moved indoors at night)
3. Report number of households and zip codes for neighbors receiving seedlings
4. Attend 1 workshop/partner event per year

Education Partners:

1. Host 2-3 CCFB led in person or virtual education events (for youth, adults, or families) each year
2. Attend 1 partner events per year
3. Support promotion and registration of neighbors for each hosted event

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Associated Costs

- Garden Partnership has a \$250 annual membership fee to account for the increased cost of food and supplies for CCFB.
- CCFB Core and Supplemental Service Partners are exempt from the fee.
- Education Partnership does not come with an associated fee.
- Costs for lumber and soil for builds or repairs is not included in the fee. Our standard 3'x10' raised bed design runs approximately \$150-200 per bed (please ask staff about alternative options).

If your organization needs assistance with the membership fee, there is an application to determine eligibility to waive the fee. If you are a CCFB Food Provider (food cupboard or pantry, backpack box partner, senior box partner) the fee will automatically be waived.

We do not wish the fee to be a barrier to joining our program. Please submit an application anyway and we will discuss options.

How to Apply!



Use your smart phone to scan the square and go to the application, or follow the link:

<https://chestercountyfoodbank.jotform.com/kdoughty/rbg-program-application>



Contact Us

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