

King County Foundation Looking for Grant Program Applicants for the A'Key Grant Program

Apply for funding from the A'Key Memorial Grant program. We wish to assist and support Master Gardener organizations in all counties of Washington State. MGFKC awards up to \$1500 each year to a Master Gardener program with a great idea for a project. Particular consideration will be given to smaller counties where support dollars might be sparse. The deadline is July 1, and MGFKC welcomes all applications. This grant money is meant to be used! Apply this year!

There has been many enthusiastic responses in the last three years. The Foundation received many excellent applications. Pend Oreille was awarded the 2015 A'Key grant in order to renovate and repair an abandoned garden and greenhouse that will be used to teach and demonstrate WSU research-based procedures and gardening practices. The 2016 A'Key award went to the Master Gardeners of Grant/Adams County. They proposed establishing a Seed Library to be located in the Ephrata Community Library. This will ensure that a diverse seed selection will be available to local gardeners at no cost. Eventually these Master Gardeners desire to make the Seed Library self-supporting with those seed borrowers encouraged to return viable seeds to the Library. Last year the 2017 A'Key winner was Skagit County Master Gardeners who proposed an outreach program to their Latino communities to ask what their food needs might be? SCMG anticipated those needs would require information provided in the Spanish language and will pair with organizations as Community Action Skagit County and Skagit County Valley College to help. WSU approaches will be recommended and taught.

All the applications were excellent, and it was a tough choice for the selection committee. MGFKC wants to thank those counties who submitted applications last year, and encourage them to consider submitting an application again this year.

Joint programs with other non-profits or public agencies are eligible too, provided that all funds are donated to and administered by the respective county's Master Gardener program. Application forms and information are available on the websites of the State Foundation (MGFWS) and MGFKC (<http://www.mgfk.org/resources/ellen-akey-grant>), through your county program director or from Jennifer Marquis, State Program Coordinator.

The A'Key Memorial Grant program was developed to foster innovation and creativity, stimulate problem solving and creative solutions, encourage a sense of unity and community among all Master Gardeners in the state, and to make possible programs that otherwise might struggle or never be able to progress beyond the planning stage.

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