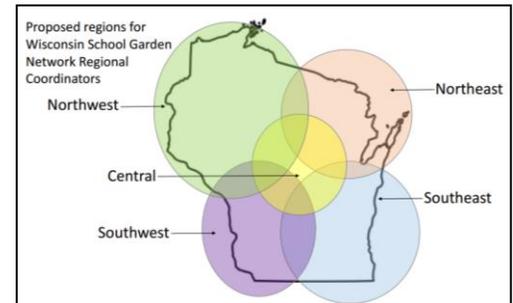




Community GroundWorks is looking for five partnering organizations to support **regional coordinators for the Wisconsin School Garden Network**. The Wisconsin School Garden Network, or WSGN, is supported by Community GroundWorks and the Environmental Design Lab at UW-Madison and is funded with a five-year grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. WSGN will increase the capacity for garden-based

education programs at schools, early care and education centers, afterschool sites, and other community sites across Wisconsin. To build a dynamic and enduring network, we will establish nodes of leadership and capacity building in five regions of Wisconsin: Northeast, Northwest, Central, Southeast, and Southwest. See right for a map of proposed regions. In each of these areas, a regional coordinator will use her or his expert knowledge of local communities' assets and needs to support garden-based education programs.



Regional coordinators will be responsible for supporting the development of the Wisconsin School Garden Network at about 5% of their work time, which will be spent fulfilling the following responsibilities:

- Conduct four on-site or remote regionally-based and regionally-focused trainings per year on best practices in garden-based education.
- Provide at least ten sites with technical assistance in garden-based education per year. Technical assistance may include, but is not limited to, disseminating resources about youth garden best practices, connecting callers to local experts, or offering strategies for implementing and sustaining school/youth gardens.
- Submit monthly report with summary of trainings offered and technical assistance provided.
- Attend annual WSGN staff meetings, including one to be hosted in your region during course of the 5-year grant period.
- Engage in monthly phone check-ins with WSGN staff.
- Report to Communications Manager on five model programs from garden-based education programs in schools, early care and education centers, afterschool sites, and other community sites in region as gathered through training and technical assistance.
- Assist in grant data collection and reporting duties, including submitting annual reports describing progress toward responsibilities outlined in contract.

Partnering organizations will provide support for their staff person to serve as regional coordinators by meeting the following requirements:

- Commit to partnering with Community GroundWorks through a one-year renewable contract reviewed annually through December 31, 2020.
- Submit quarterly invoices detailing how the **\$3,500 annual stipend** is used to support employee in fulfilling responsibilities outlined above including, but not limited to, staff time, travel, and other associated costs.

Community GroundWorks will be responsible for the following support:

- Orient regional coordinators to the Wisconsin School Garden Network.
- Train regional coordinators on best practices for school and community youth garden development and support.
- Provide training materials, including video conferencing capabilities and other youth garden resources as available for regional coordinator to use and disseminate.
- Facilitate annual WSGN staff meetings.
- Compile required grant reports and supporting documentation.
- Schedule and facilitate regular check-ins with regional coordinators.

Apply Online

Organizations interested in supporting the Wisconsin School Garden Network by supporting a regional coordinator can apply online at the link below. **The application period will close at midnight on December 1, 2016.** Materials will then be reviewed by a selection committee. Community GroundWorks reserves the right to accept or reject, without prejudice, any or all applications to promote the best interest of the project.

Application link: <https://communitygroundworks.wufoo.com/forms/r1d74xv31dl8498/>

Applications will be considered based on the applicant's and partnering organization's ability to:

- Provide school/youth garden training and technical assistance throughout the region.
- Leverage current partnerships and cultivate new partnerships to grow the Wisconsin School Garden Network.
- Offer support to underserved communities in Wisconsin.
- Sustain efforts beyond the five-year grant timeline.

Anticipated Timeline:

November 1, 2016 – Request for Partnership announced

December 1, 2016 – Request for Partnership applications due

December 12, 2016 – Target date for award notifications

January 1, 2017 – Regional coordinators begin partnership with WSGN

Contact Information

Questions can be addressed to Nathan Larson at nathan@communitygroundworks.org or 608-240-0409.

About the Wisconsin School Garden Network and the Cultivate Health Initiative

The Cultivate Health Initiative (CHI) was created to support the growing garden-based education movement in Wisconsin. Building off the success of the Got Dirt? Gardening and Wisconsin School Garden Initiatives, CHI will grow and sustain the garden-based education movement through the development of the **Wisconsin School Garden Network**. The promotion of this new network will increase the capacity for garden-based education programs at schools, early care and education centers, afterschool sites, and other community sites across Wisconsin. Over the five-year span of CHI, we will:

- Bring together a diverse community of stakeholders to set common goals and priorities.
- Develop a robust communications infrastructure to build and support the Wisconsin School Garden Network.
- Collaborate with decision makers at the local and state levels to work toward policy changes that support school gardens.
- Promote best practices in garden-based education by providing professional development, technical assistance, and educational resources to communities around the state.

To build a dynamic and enduring network, the Cultivate Health Initiative will establish nodes of leadership and capacity building in five regions of Wisconsin. In each of these areas, a regional coordinator will use her or his expert knowledge local communities' assets and needs to support garden-based education programs. CHI staff will provide professional development and technical assistance to schools, early care and education centers, and afterschool sites around the state. Over the course of the initiative, we will train 2,000 educators statewide who will provide high-quality garden-based education to a diverse population of 90,000 children in rural and urban areas across Wisconsin. Through CHI, we will develop and disseminate resources with a focus on health equity to promote best practices in garden-based education. Finally, CHI will develop a communications infrastructure to share model programs and success stories to strengthen the Wisconsin School Garden Network through active communication among educators and to raise awareness about the effectiveness of garden-based education to support children's health and wellbeing.

CHI is a joint project of [Community GroundWorks](#) and the [Environmental Design Lab](#), in collaboration with the Wisconsin Obesity Prevention Initiative and [healthTIDE](#). CHI is supported by many local, state, and national partners including schools and school districts, regional health departments and health coalitions, and state agencies and organizations such as the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#), the [Wisconsin Early Childhood Association](#), the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#), and [UW-Extension](#). Funding for this project is provided by the [UW School of Medicine and Public Health from the Wisconsin Partnership Program](#).