

New Funding Opportunities

1. The Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF)

The Federal Government recognizes the important work carried out by nonprofit organizations to address the needs of disadvantaged and hard-to-reach populations suffering economic hardships and intends to empower these organizations to be part of economic recovery through the **new Strengthening Communities Fund**. **The Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) is now available and applications are due July 7, 2009.**

Objective: The objective of the Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) is to enable nonprofit organizations to contribute to the economic recovery and help Federal, State, local, and Indian/Native American Tribal governments ensure that the information and services described in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) reach disadvantaged and hard-to-serve populations.

Program Focus: The focus of this program is to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations, whether secular or faith based, to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs, and gain greater access to state and Federal benefits and tax credits, including ARRA benefits.

For more information about this new program, visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/scf/>

For recordings of technical assistance calls for potential applicants, visit

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/scf/online_training.html

Grant Program: SCF is made up of two separate grant programs.

- A. **Nonprofit Capacity Building Program:** The SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building program will make **34** one-time awards up to \$1 million each to experienced lead organizations to provide nonprofit organizations -- or project partners -- with capacity building training, technical assistance, and competitive financial assistance. A minimum of 55% of the Federal funds awarded must be provided to project partners through a competitive process. The grant period for this award is 24 months. To read the full program announcement for the SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building program visit: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2009-ACF-OCS-SI-0091.html>

- B. **State, Local, and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program:** The SCF State, Local, and Tribal Government Capacity Building program will make one-time awards up to \$250,000 each to **48** State, city, county, and Indian/Native American Tribal government offices (e.g., offices responsible for outreach to faith-based and community organizations or those interested in initiating such an effort), or their designees, to build the capacity of nonprofit faith-based and community organizations to better serve those in need and to increase nonprofit organizations' involvement in the economic recovery. Grantees will use program funds to provide free capacity building services to nonprofit organizations and to build their own capacity to provide such services to nonprofits. The grant period for this award is 24 months. To read the full program announcement for the SCF State, Local and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program visit: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2009-ACF-OCS-SN-0092.html>

2.National Gardening Association Announces 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards Program
(<http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>)

Deadline: October 17, 2009

The National Gardening Association encourages the growth of health-focused youth garden programs through the Healthy Sprouts Awards sponsored by Gardener's Supply Company. The awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. To be eligible for the 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards, a school or organization must plan to garden in 2010 with at least fifteen children between the ages of 3 and 18. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and nutrition and hunger issues in the United States.

In 2009, the program will present awards to twenty schools or organizations. Each recipient program will receive gardening supplies and resources, including gift certificates toward the purchase of gardening materials from Gardener's Supply. The top five programs will each receive a certificate valued at \$500; fifteen more programs will each receive a \$200 gift certificate

3.National Gardening Association Announces Continuation of Youth Garden Grants Program
(<http://assoc.garden.org/grants/>)

Deadline: November 2, 2009

The National Gardening Association has announced that the Home Depot is returning as the Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2010. NGA annually awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs across the United States. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Previous Youth Garden Grant winners who wish to reapply may do so, but must wait one year before applying again, and must have significantly expanded their garden programs. For the 2010 grant cycle, 100 grants are available. Five programs will each receive gift cards valued at \$1,000 (a \$500 gift card to the Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and educational materials from NGA). Ninety-five programs will each receive a \$500 gift card to the Home Depot and educational materials from NGA.

4.National Gardening Association Invites Applications for 2009 Hooked on Hydroponics Education Grants
(<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/HOH.asp>)

Deadline: September 18, 2009

The Grow Store and ProgressiveGardening.org have joined with the National Gardening Association to offer hydroponic equipment to expand indoor gardening opportunities for elementary and middle and high school students. The program will provide thirty-six schools with equipment and learning materials for hydroponics projects that involve at least fifteen children between the ages of 6 and 18 during the 2010 school year. Applicants must verify that their facility can accommodate the equipment in the award packages available for their age group.