

TEMG Support for Excellence 2018/19 Mini-Grant Pilot Program

Why are these mini-grants being made available?

These grants were created to support new outreach projects and encourage TEMG groups to 'think outside the box' and engage with and educate their communities. These grants will work in tandem with our state Search for Excellence awards. The Search for Excellence recognizes current outstanding outreach, and these grants are intended to support the development of new and novel outreach. Funds were provided by the silent auction at the 2018 TEMG state conference led by Cumberland County Master Gardeners.

These 2019 grants will focus on two key areas that are often underrepresented in Tennessee SFE applications:

- 1) Projects reaching underserved audiences
- 2) Research and citizen science (applied research where trials or data collection take place in home gardens)

What TEMG service projects can these grants be used to support?

- New projects (not started yet or begun in 2018) directed to either underserved audiences or research
- New efforts (not started yet or begun in 2018) that connect to an existing service or education project

Who is eligible to apply for these mini-grants?

Mini-grants are available to University of Tennessee county Extension offices who have a local Extension Master Gardener program. All TEMG groups with current MOUs on file are eligible, but only one application per group will be accepted. Funds will be distributed to the county Extension account and distributed by the local agent coordinator as needed to conduct the project. A minimum of 3 grants will be awarded.

When are the grant applications due, and when are the projects conducted?

Due Date: Applications are due by 12:00 PM EST, November 30th, 2018 by sending a word file or pdf via email to Natalie Bumgarner (nbumgarn@utk.edu). You will receive a confirmation email when the application is received. If you do not receive an email, check back with Natalie to be sure the application arrived. Grants that will be funded will be notified by Jan. 1 of 2019, and funds will be distributed by Feb. 1, 2019.

Timeline: Described work should be carried out in the 2019 calendar year.

Amount: Grants will be funded in the amount of \$500-\$750 dollars depending on project and other available resources (Funds can support supplies or materials, but not wages)

What needs to be included in the application? (Max. 2 pages, single spaced, 12 pt font)

1. **Name of TEMG Group** and **Contact Information** for county coordinator and volunteer project leader
3. **Project name and description:** Please include in this description: A) Project overview and two or three main goals, B) Audience and those who will benefit, C) EMGS who will be involved and any community partners, D) A timeline of activities, and E) Desired outcomes and impacts in the community.
4. **Budget and Resources:** Describe the budget for the project that you are requesting and explain how funds would be spent. Also discuss other resources available for the project either from the TEMG group, private benefactors, or other agencies or funders.
5. **Evaluation and Completion:** How will the benefits of the project be measured? Briefly describe the plan for evaluation and measuring impact. If this is a research project, specifically describe how results will be shared. A summary will be due to the state TEMG office by Jan. 31, 2020 and groups will also be asked to share their experiences on a statewide videoconference call. We also strongly encourage you to submit the project in a future Tennessee Search for Excellence competition.