

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 128-F**

Minnesota Multicultural Sustainable Backyard Farming Program

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**Topic Area:** F. Outreach/Education/Training

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 117,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 yrs. July 2013 - June 2015

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 0

**Summary:**

The Minnesota Multicultural Sustainable Backyard Farming Program is to improve the quality of life for urban multicultural groups in Minneapolis / St. Paul by providing training and education in sustainable urban farming practices.

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Hennepin

**City / Township:** minneapolis

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_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

*INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (2 PAGE LIMIT)*

*Attach Main Proposal in MS-WORD format to your "2012-2013 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form".  
(2-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum - retain the bold text and DELETE all  
instructions typed in italics)*

**PROJECT TITLE:** Minnesota Multicultural Sustainable Backyard Farming Program

## **I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

*In this section, provide a summarizing overview statement (3/4 page or less) that clearly and succinctly states:*

The mission of the Minnesota Multicultural Sustainable Backyard Farming Program is to improve the quality of life for urban multicultural groups in Minneapolis / St. Paul by providing training and education in sustainable urban farming practices, specialty crop production and marketing, and small-scale agriculture business development. The Program uses these groups' cultural experience with farming as a base from which to improve their opportunities in education, marketable skills, access to quality foods, income production and social integration. Having successfully completed its first year in pilot phase, the Program's objective are to:

1. develop the operational infrastructure and standardized processes that will support multiple urban sustainable backyard farming projects and create a model that can be replicated for urban refugee, immigrant and other multicultural groups across Minnesota and other cold climate Midwest states; and
2. expand its existing projects – the African Women Immigrant Sustainable Backyard Farming Project, the Heritage Farming Project(WEI) and the African Sustainable Backyard Farming Project(AfroEco) - and launch a new project - the Hmong Sustainable Backyard Farming Project - in conjunction with its designated partner organizations.

### The Need

Refugees and immigrants and other multicultural groups arriving in Minneapolis / St. Paul from an agrarian society find their education and employment opportunities are hindered by obstacles such as the language barrier and a lack of understanding of U.S. finance and employment practices. The

### Importance

There is an excellent opportunity for services that promote the education, integration and marketability of men and women within the refugee and immigrant populations of Minneapolis / St. Paul. With the proper training on urban agriculture practices and access to resources provided by support organizations, the refugee and immigrant groups can learn the necessary skills to successfully start small agricultural businesses and related enterprises. *HOW the project will achieve those goals (i.e., the project itself and types of activities involved).*

### The Future: A Proposal for Phase II (First Expansion Year)

Renamed "The Minnesota Multicultural Sustainable Backyard Farming Program" to better reflect the expansion of its service offering to multiple multicultural groups (including culture-specific refugee and immigrant groups), the Program's primary objectives for Phase II are twofold:

1. Develop the operational infrastructure and standardized processes that will support multiple urban sustainable backyard farming projects to create a model that can be replicated across Minnesota and other cold climate Midwest states; and
2. Expand its existing projects in conjunction with its partner organizations, and launch a new project - the Karen Refugee Sustainable Backyard Farming Project in collaboration with the Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) for the benefit of the Karen refugee community living primarily in St. Paul.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

*The Program's primary beneficiaries are refugee and immigrant communities from an agrarian culture now living in urban Minneapolis / St. Paul, as well as other multicultural, non immigrant groups with an agriculture based heritage.*

*Training as urban farmers and agricultural business owners enables multicultural groups to build upon their cultural skill set and gain advantage in the following areas:*

*FOR EXAMPLE:*

**Activity 1:** *(Title of Activity)*

**Budget:** \$

*Include detailed description of the activity you are proposing to do here.*

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Develop Training Program</i>	<i>January 2013</i>
<i>2. Recruit and Train Farmers</i>	<i>November 2013</i>
<i>3. Evaluate Program</i>	<i>May 2014</i>

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

*Community Table Association of Cooperatives, St. Paul, local organization promoting community food system cooperatives.*

*Gardening Matters, Minneapolis, local organization supporting community gardens throughout the twin cities.*

*Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota, St Paul, local Hmong farming training organization.*

*Karen Organization of Minnesota, St Paul, local community organization for Karens.*

**B. Timeline Requirements**

The Project will take approximately two years or two growing seasons.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

*The project focuses not only gross farm income, but also indirect economic benefits to multicultural farmers. The newest members of these groups find that their lack of communication skills in English and their lack of understanding of the labor laws, job search techniques and personal/business finance concepts greatly reduces their education and employment opportunities. The Program helps them overcome these hurdles by providing them with entry into the sustainable agriculture movement in Minnesota and introducing them to the economic, ecological and social aspects of sustainable Backyard Farming practices used to grow specialty crops. Training as urban farmers and agricultural business owners enables them to build upon their cultural skill set and gain advantage in employment and gaining marketable skills. New Americans and other multicultural groups involved in farming projects will learn hands on, in a comfortable environment, an understanding of agricultural related jobs as well as a renewed value in work. All of the involved backyard farming projects integrate English and Non-English speakers, thus creating an opportunity for immigrants and refugees and multicultural groups improve their written and conversational English outside of the classroom setting, further improving their marketable skills. Farmers who excel in the backyard farming projects may even find future employment in leader positions within the Minnesota Multicultural Sustainable Backyard Farming Program!*

## 2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

### INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

*Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2012-2013 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form".*

*(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics. ADD OR DELETE ROWS AS NECESSARY. If a category is not applicable write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)*

#### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [*Insert # of years for project*] years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> <i>(See list of Eligible and Non-Eligible Costs, p. 11)</i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Management Consultant, Program Advisor, Program Consultant, Farmer Leaders, Farmer Participants	\$ 65,000
<b>Contracts:</b> <i>Legal, Accounting,</i>	\$ 25,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	\$ 15,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> <i>In this column, indicate proposed number of acres and name of organization or entity who will hold title.</i>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b> <i>Staff and Farm participant travel</i>	\$ 12,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached. One row per type/category.</i>	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 117,000</b>

#### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>In-kind from project partners</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. List type of service(s) and estimated value. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$ 24,000	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> <i>Specify dollar and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of funds in the right-most column.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2013, for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	\$ -	

#### #6: Project Manager Qualifications/Organization

Description (1-page limit total)

Include summary of project manager qualifications and responsibilities pertaining specifically to project proposal. This does not need to be a complete resume.

Collie Graddick is a Consultant with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Partner in the Community Table Association of Cooperatives (CTAC). He has been a consultant for the MDA for over 19 years, working in the Seed, Noxious Weed, Fertilizer, Endangered Species and Pesticide Regulatory programs. Collie has been a partner at CTAC since it began 2 years ago. He has been a food system trainer for 4 years, assisting small, immigrant and minority farmers with working together on developing local food systems. . He received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from Fort Valley State University, GA and his M.S. degree from Tuskegee University, Alabama in Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Production. Collie has volunteered time on several non-profit boards including the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Alliance for Sustainability, Women's Environmental Institute, Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, Preventing Harm Minnesota, Afro Eco, Gardening Matters and the George Washington Carver Urban Science Academy. For this proposal, Collie will provide the leadership in developing the training material and program as well as assist in recruiting participants and project evaluation.

Organization description should be a simple, brief explanation of organization and its mission.

Community Table Association of Cooperatives (CTAC) is a 2 year old Minnesota based non-profit organization created to address food production, processing, transportation, and distribution needs. We provide training and support to entrepreneurs wanting to farm and start businesses that contribute to a local food system. It is an integrated network of community members and small businesses, owned and operated by community members. Using the cooperative model of transparency, equity and trust, CTAC seek to address nutritional, economic, environmental, and social community needs by building a local and sustainable food system that connects the chain between growers and consumers.

