# **Pennsylvania Accessible Growing Microgrant**

This grant is to help make gardens and growing spaces in Pennsylvania more accessible for everyone. Funds can be used for tools, renovations, and other accessibility improvements. Our team will work with grant recipients, and we’ll use what we learn to help more gardens across Pennsylvania. Accepted projects will mostly be $1000 or less, but all applications will be considered.

Looking for advice on accessibility changes? Check out our accessibility guide or email [mdysart@temple.edu](mailto:mdysart@temple.edu) to schedule a time to talk. You can find our accessibility guide on the [website for the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University](https://disabilities.temple.edu/programs-services/health-equity/food-justice/pennsylvania-accessible-growing-microgrant).

## **Goals of this Grant**

We are looking to help gardens achieve one more of the following goals:

1. **Make your garden or growing space more accessible**  
    Your project should create real changes that help disabled people and/or older adults participate, visit, and work in the garden. This might mean physical changes like raised beds or paths, sensory supports like quiet spaces or visual cues, or communication tools like large-print or plain language signage.
2. **Address specific access needs**  
    Your proposal should name which access needs you're focusing on. Some examples include:
   1. Mobility access (walkways, seating, planter height)
   2. Sensory or cognitive access (quiet spaces, simple signage)
   3. Communication and language access (volunteer training, signs in multiple languages)
3. **Include the voices of disabled people and/or older adults**  
   We want to fund projects that are designed *with* the people most impacted. Your project should show how you listened to or worked with disabled people or older adults to plan your changes.
4. **Support access in places that don’t usually get funding**  
    These microgrants are meant to help communities who haven’t had much support to make their spaces more accessible. If your garden hasn’t had the resources before, or you’ve had to rely on volunteers or mutual aid, we especially encourage you to apply.

## **How to Apply**

Please answer the questions on the following page. You can submit your application in whatever format works best for you: a written document, audio recording, or a video recording. Send your application to [mdysart@temple.edu](mailto:mdysart@temple.edu).

## **Selection Process**

We will select applications on a rolling basis until funds are no longer available. This means we will review applications as they are submitted. There is no set deadline, but we cannot guarantee availability of funds through any certain date.

***This opportunity is only for spaces within the state of Pennsylvania***

### **Selection criteria**

We will evaluate eligible applications based on how well they adhere to the goals listed above using the rubric on the [Institute’s webpage about Accessible Gardening](https://disabilities.temple.edu/programs-services/health-equity/food-justice/pennsylvania-accessible-growing-microgrant).

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions or need help with the application, please contact Makhari Dysart at [mdysart@temple.edu](mailto:mdysart@temple.edu).

## **Funding Statement**

This grant is a part of a project funded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.

# **Grant Application**

## **Section 1: About you**

* Your Name
* Organization Name (If applicable)
* Your Role within the Growing Space
* Best Contact Information (email or phone)

## **Section 2: About Your Growing Space**

* Name of Growing Space
* Brief history of the space (e.g., when did it start)
* Address of Your Garden or Growing Space
* Type of Growing Space (for example, community garden, urban farm)
* Community Served
* How Many People Use or Visit the Space
* Your Goals for This Garden or Space
* About Your Community
  + Describe the community your garden serves.
  + Why is this garden important to the community?
* Does your space currently engage with the disability and aging community?
  + If yes: Briefly share how your space is inclusive for these groups.
  + If no: Please tell us how you plan to increase participation or make your space more welcoming for people with disabilities or older adults.

## **Section 3: Accessibility Project Details**

* What are the things that make it hard for people with disabilities or older adults to use your space right now? (For example: no nearby bus stop, garden beds are too narrow for a wheelchair, paths are uneven)
* What Changes Would You Like to Make?
  + Describe the changes, tools, or improvements you need to make your space accessible.
* How Will These Changes Help Your Community?
  + Explain how this funding will help make your garden better for everyone, including people with disabilities and older adults.

## **Section 5: Funding and Support**

* Amount Requested (Flexible Funding Range)
  + State how much you need for your project.
  + Please provide a detailed list of how the funds will be spent.
* Have you had access to other funding or support to make your space more accessible in the past?
  + If yes: Please tell us how this grant would still be helpful for your project.