

The year is progressing and its time to look at funds that can help us carry out our ideas and goals. The NGC organization and MFGC have several ways to assist through grants.

The “**Plant America Grants**” were established to assist individual garden clubs that are members of NGC, Inc. with community beautification projects, community and/or school gardens, landscaping for Blue Star Memorials or Habitat for Humanity homes, or public horticultural or environmental programs or events. The grant amount is up to \$1000 to be used for direct expenses of projects. Applications are available online at <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx>. Applications can be submitted to the web-address on the form. Please remember to follow the form’s guidelines, especially with the description, timeline, and the judging criteria. Application deadline is October 15, 2022.

The “**Natural Disaster USA Fund**” was established by NGC, Inc. in 1997 to receive monetary contributions from states, clubs and individuals for the purpose of assisting local and state clubs with their garden related restoration efforts. Grants up to \$5000 and no more than \$5000 per project may be awarded within the NGC fiscal year to local and state clubs. A garden club may apply for funds to help replant, restore and beautify a public area that has been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, floods, fire etc. To help in the way of contributions to the fund, the Whitehall Garden Club is challenging each club to donate \$25 to the Natural Disaster USA Fund. This donation may also be tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor. For more detailed information to apply for funds, go to <http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-natural-disasters-usa-fund-application-2019.pdf>.

The “**Ames Garden Tool Grant**” was established by the Ames Companies, the largest manufacturer of garden tools in the US. They have agreed to extend its in-kind-grant program for 2020. This year’s list of tools that may be requested includes a group of tools sized for children and a group of lighter weight and mid-sized tools (such as floral tools) which may be helpful for use in garden therapy projects. Ames has set aside \$4500 (retail value) in garden tools available for these types of projects during the 2020 calendar year from March 1 – September 30, 2020. The garden club applying for the grant must be a NGC member. Tools will be shipped to the successful applicant 2 weeks following notification as a grant recipient. To get an application go to <http://gardenclub.org>. Click on projects and then on grants. Applications must be sent in by March 1, 2022. Get ready for submission by Mar 1, 2023 for next year.

The Espoma Company is a manufacturer of organic fertilizers for gardeners nationwide. The **Espoma’s “Plant America” Grant Program** was announced at the 2017 NGC Annual Convention. Grants for \$250 of Espoma products can be awarded up to 20 NGC clubs annually. Over 35 grants have been awarded to clubs in 22 states. These creative NGC clubs have used this resource to beautify and improve the quality of life in their local communities. Applications are accepted from Oct. 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022. Complete information on how to apply is available on <http://gardenclub.org/projects/espoma.aspx>.

The **MFGC Endowment Interest Grant** provides grants up to \$500 to MFGC garden clubs for projects benefiting communities, residents or garden club members of Montana. Some of the ways the grant can be used is to fund speakers, seminars, workshops or new technology to present educational programs. The MFGC Executive Committee reviews all grant requests. Priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:

- (1) provide a long-term, direct benefit to local residents or community,
- (2) enjoy support from community members,
- (3) have an ongoing, sustainable funding source and
- (4) address important, unmet needs.

For more detailed information contact Glenna Waltee, Treasurer, Montana, Federation of Garden Clubs, P.O. Box 662, Whitehall, MT 59759. Applications must be received by June 1 and/or September 1 each year.

Additional information and application form:

## MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

### ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANT GUIDELINES

October 9, 2020

The Endowment Program of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. provides grants for projects by local federated garden clubs in the State of Montana. The Endowment Program has been making annual grants since 2015.

#### Eligibility

##### Project must:

- Be charitable in purpose
- Have able and committed leadership
- Be earmarked for education and communication.

##### Ineligible Projects:

- Conference attendance and travel
- Planning, research or untested projects
- Partisan or sectarian activities

#### About the Grants

- Grants will be up to \$500
- Grants for projects benefiting communities or residents of Montana
- Grants to present educational programs.
- Grant requests are reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Endowment Committee of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

#### Preferred Projects

##### Priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:

- Projects to fund speakers, seminars, workshops or new technology.
- Provide a long-term, direct benefit to local residents or community
- Enjoy support from community members
- Projects have an ongoing, sustainable funding source
- Address important, unmet needs

#### Cash Match

##### Cash match is required for the grants

- For every five dollars of grant funding, applicants must have at least one dollar of matching funds for the project. Cash must be either pledged or in-hand. Please include some form of evidence of cash match such as a letter of commitment or a copy of a donation received.
- In-kind match (such as committed materials, real estate, building, donated time or other good or service) is valuable and shows the importance of the project to the community. Please describe any in-kind match committed to the project.

## Application Package Checklist

Please include all of the following items in your application

- MFGC's Endowment Interest Grant Application Cover Sheet (attached)
- Project budget including a description of cash and in-kind match and proof that cash and in-kind match is committed to the project.
- Copy of 501(c)3 if your organization has this designation
- A description of the Club organization including what it does in the community, who your organization serves, and a list of board members and/or project leaders.
- A written description of the proposed project, in two pages or less, to include the following:
  1. A detailed description of the proposed project
  2. Explanation of how the project meets the Montana Federation of Garden Club's funding priorities
  3. Describe the impact of the project in the community
  4. Estimate how many people will benefit from this project

## Where to send the Application

- Application packages must be received by June 1 and/or September 1.
- Deliver FOUR copies of the package (stapled is fine) to: MFGC, P.O. Box 662, Whitehall, MT. 59759-0662

## ADDED GUIDELINES FOR THE ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANTS

The Endowment Fund was established with the fund interest earmarked for education and communication. Last Spring when the guidelines and format were developed, these priorities were not made clear. The following has been added to the guidelines:

Eligibility, add under Project must; **EARMARKED FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION.**

About the Grants, add; **GRANTS TO PRESENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Preferred Projects, add: **PROJECTS TO FUND SPEAKERS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS OR NEW TECHNOLOGY.**

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

**2019 ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANT APPLICATION**

Name of Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Project Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Which town/community/club(s) will the grant serve?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please include a brief, one sentence description of your proposed project:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_