



# HOMEGROWN CHICAGO

## Community Vegetable Garden Training & Support Program

An Openlands workshop and support program for Chicago residents who want to eat healthy food they grow themselves in community-run gardens.

Openlands has been helping people to organize community gardens in Chicago since the early 1990's. We've worked with people to gather and organize members, to identify land, and to prepare, plant and take care of the gardens they build on it. This new program is specifically designed to support the Local Food movement in Chicago by helping groups of residents start a garden together with friends and neighbors to grow food, and to insure that the garden and the garden organization are sustainable.

Growing food together has many benefits. Community vegetable gardens help people eat better, the food is more affordable and members are able to get to know their neighbors, exercise and clean up the environment.



**HomeGrown Chicago** will include:

1. Periodic Basic Training Workshops providing the basic information gardeners need: from securing the land and forming a committed garden organization to planting, maintaining and harvesting the bounty.
2. A manual for use during the initial training workshop and after. This manual is the product of years of discovering best practices in creating and sustaining healthy gardens on the ground, all over the city.
3. Donations of lumber, soil and other materials as needed for initial installation and as funding allows, to help make these projects happen.
4. Scholarships for participating gardeners to attend our annual 8-week sustainable, organic gardening class: Building Urban Gardens (BUGs)
5. A guide to the links and connections that will help gardeners make and find the resources and information necessary to install and maintain the garden.
6. An online conversation group for food gardeners to communicate, share and learn from each other.
7. Additional periodic workshops, such as canning and cooking demonstrations, and an annual "Chicago Food Gardeners Annual Spring Gathering" so gardeners can meet, greet and eat together as they share advice and seeds for the new season.

You cannot create a community garden "alone." By definition you need the support of a "community" to have a community garden. We require each group to send a **minimum of 4 people to participate in each workshop**. Think of this group as the "steering committee" that will grow the organization, start and "keep" the garden.

For more information, call Julie at 312/863-6256 or email [jsamuels@openlands.org](mailto:jsamuels@openlands.org)

