



# City of Lawrence

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May 2, 2017

Attn: NACD Grant Review Team

We are thrilled to support the Douglas County Conservation District's application to the National Association of Conservation Districts' Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative.

The Conservation District's proposal for the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative would provide critical support for our city's local food system and urban agriculture initiatives by:

- Advancing educational support and technical assistance for the gardeners and growers in our city. This directly supports our recently-passed Urban Agriculture Ordinance which greatly expanded opportunities for gardening, animal production, and on-site sales in city limits.
- Engaging our citizens in conservation best practices by further developing our Common Ground community garden and incubator farm program.
- Providing technical assistance to gardeners and growers in our city's food deserts in East and North Lawrence. 7 of the 10 Common Ground sites are located in USDA defined food deserts in our city.
- Building a demonstration teaching garden and high tunnel production system at the DG County Fairgrounds, also located in a neighborhood identified as a food desert.

We look forward to partnering with Douglas County, KSU Research & Extension, the Douglas County Food Policy Council, and the Douglas County Conservation District to provide additional support and resources to advance healthy food access in our city.

Thank you for your consideration of their request.

Sincerely,

Leslie Soden  
Mayor



