

The Big Garden

The Big Garden began in 2005, with a focus on growing nutritious food in East Omaha, an urban food desert with a diverse population, many of whom live below the poverty line. In 2009, the Big Garden expanded to include rural communities in Nebraska. In 2011, the Big Garden expanded again to reach into Kansas, and in 2013, we expanded our reach across jurisdictional boundaries into Iowa. The Big Garden is responsive to a number of community needs, including: 1. Absence of healthy food retailers. 2. Long distances between residents and sources of fresh food. 3. Health literacy needs, including food preparation, basic nutrition information, and exposure to healthy foods, recipes, and cooking resources. 4. Self-determination and capacity building in neighborhoods. 5. Lack of fresh and nutritious foods at local food pantries. 6. Absence of local fresh food sources. For information, visit www.advance.umcor.org/p-411-the-big-garden.aspx