

Qualitative Assessment Template

Name of Action: Camden City Garden Club (CCGC) and Camden Children's Garden, Community Garden and Grow Lab program.

In a few short sentences, please describe the action and identify your partners.

CCGC helps members of the community obtain and transform vacant city owned lots into community gardens. Several of the Gardens are also on church properties throughout Camden. Staff will remove the top layer of soil, bring in fresh soil and make garden beds. Once the garden is established members are able to pick up plants periodically at the Camden Children's Garden. We also operate an in-school Grow Lab program in select schools in Camden teaching children science, nutrition and gardening. The Garden Club also supports several school gardens in Camden.

Even if the action was performed by volunteers, or you got in-kind donations, please estimate your costs and the time commitment required to complete the action.

The cost associated with the community garden program is grant funded. Activities depend on funding. Costs range from the costs of materials and supplies and up to including staff time for all aspects of the program.

Assess what worked and what could be done if this action is tried again in the community.

This has been a successful program since 1985. To date the Camden City Garden Club supports about 120 community gardens and is ongoing. Community buy-in to the maintenance of the gardens is essential to ensure the continued success of the gardens.

What are the next steps for this action?

CCGC is always looking to grow and start more gardens throughout the City of Camden. Growth depends on resources. One challenge facing our gardeners is excessive heat and lack of water at the garden sites. A goal is to attempt to secure funding for rain water harvesting. Another goal is to begin to develop the gardener's entrepreneurial skills for the sale of products.