



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2011

Contact: Megan Odett
Alliance for Community Trees
301-277-0040 or Programs@ACTrees.org

**ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES ANNOUNCES
PEOPLE'S GARDEN GRANT PROGRAM**

Only National Nonprofit Selected by USDA People's Garden Initiative

COLLEGE PARK, MD (December 12, 2011) – Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) is pleased to announce the Alliance for Community Trees People's Garden Grants, a new grant opportunity designed to explore and deepen connections between trees and community agriculture.

ACTrees was selected by the USDA People's Garden Initiative as the only national nonprofit grant recipient. ACTrees will deliver subgrants to local member organizations nationwide. The ACTrees People's Garden Grants will promote the connection between trees and community agriculture by supporting the planting of shade trees to shelter and protect community gardens, and fruit and nut trees to serve local residents.

"Alliance for Community Trees is excited to offer this unique opportunity for our member organizations to demonstrate the connection between trees and community gardens," said ACTrees Executive Director Carrie Gallagher. "We recognize along with the USDA that trees are critical to healthy people and healthy communities. The agricultural role of trees in towns and cities has been less visible in the larger urban greening movement, but there are remarkable successes in local communities. ACTrees is honored to partner with the USDA People's Garden Initiative to demonstrate nationally that trees are an integral part of sustainable urban agriculture."

Micro-subgrants will be awarded to the ACTrees national network of 200 local member organizations through a competitive challenge grant process. \$125,000 will be distributed in grants of up to \$5,000 each to successful applicants. Applications are due to ACTrees by January 31, 2012. An informational webcast on December 15 at 1pm EST will feature additional background and details about the grant. To register for the webcast, visit:

http://www.ACTrees.org/site/resources/events/actrees_peoples_garden_grants.php
Inquiries may be directed to Programs@ACTrees.org

About Alliance for Community Trees

Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and livability of cities by planting and caring for trees. With nearly 200 grassroots member organizations in 43 states and Canada, ACTrees engages volunteers to take action to improve the environment where 80% of people live: in urban areas. Together ACTrees member organizations have planted and cared for 15 million trees in cities with help from over 5 million volunteers. For more information, please visit www.ACTrees.org and follow us on Twitter @alliance4trees.

###

Alliance for Community Trees
4603 Calvert Road
College Park, MD 20740

T 301-277-0040
F 301-277-0042
www.ACTrees.org