

# Ikigai Gardens

## Sponsor a Church Community Garden

*Corporate & Organizational Sponsorship Guide*

### About This Sponsorship

Ikigai Gardens is a for-profit social enterprise connecting churches with agricultural expertise to establish sustainable community gardens that address food insecurity. Through our 2026 pilot program, your organization can sponsor a church garden in Richland, Sumter, Calhoun, or Fairfield County, South Carolina.

This guide explains the sponsorship process, tax benefits, investment requirements, and expected community impact.

### The Problem: Food Insecurity in South Carolina

South Carolina ranks 7th worst nationally for food insecurity:

- 722,000 South Carolinians are food insecure (14.4% of the population)
- 1 in 5 children live in food-insecure households
- Churches want to help but lack tools, seeds, agricultural expertise, and ongoing support

### The Solution: Church Community Gardens

Your sponsorship provides a church with everything needed to launch and maintain a productive community garden for 12 months:

- Complete garden infrastructure (tools, seeds, soil amendments, irrigation supplies)
- 12 months of Ikigai Gardens platform access (AI-powered crop recommendations, volunteer management tools, impact tracking)
- Training and ongoing agricultural expertise
- Quarterly impact reports showing measurable community outcomes

### Investment Required

#### **Sponsorship Range: \$5,000-\$8,000 per church garden**

According to University of Minnesota research (2024), community gardens typically cost between \$3,750 and \$7,500 to start for a basic 1,000 sq ft garden. A 2025 community gardening study found startup costs ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 depending on site conditions, infrastructure needs, and scale.

#### **Your sponsorship covers:**

- Garden startup costs (tools, seeds, soil, irrigation): \$3,500-\$6,500
- 12-month Ikigai Gardens platform subscription: Minimum \$2,148/year (paid to Ikigai LLC by church using restricted donation funds)

#### **Pilot Program Platform Access:**

All churches participating in the 2026 pilot program require sponsorship and will receive full platform access at a minimum of the **Professional tier (\$179/month or \$2,148/year)**. This ensures pilot churches have comprehensive support including:

- AI-powered crop recommendations
- Bi-weekly expert consultations
- Enhanced tracking and reporting
- AI Grant Writing Assistant
- Advanced analytics
- Priority technical support

This tier level is necessary to gather robust data during the pilot phase and provide churches with the best chance of success.

## Expected Community Impact

Based on research-backed estimates, your sponsored garden will produce:

### Small Garden (1,000 sq ft):

- 800-1,200 lbs of fresh produce per growing season
- Feeds 5-8 families

### Medium Garden (2,500 sq ft):

- 2,000-3,000 lbs of fresh produce per growing season
- Feeds 15-20 families

### Large Garden (4,000 sq ft):

- 3,500-5,000 lbs of fresh produce per growing season
- Feeds 25-30 families

## How Tax-Deductible Sponsorship Works

### IMPORTANT: Understanding the Restricted Donation Framework

Because Ikigai LLC is a for-profit social enterprise, donations directly to Ikigai Gardens are not tax-deductible. However, you can receive a full tax deduction by donating to the church (a 501(c)(3) organization) with restricted use designation.

#### How It Works:

1. **Your organization donates to [Church Name], a 501(c)(3) organization**

Example: \$7,000 donation to Grace Community Church

2. **You specify how funds must be used (restricted donation):**

\$5,500 for garden supplies, tools, and infrastructure

\$1,500 for Ikigai Gardens platform subscription (12 months)

3. **Church receives donation with written agreement acknowledging restrictions**

Church signs acknowledgment letter confirming restricted use of funds

4. **Church uses restricted funds to:**

Purchase garden supplies and infrastructure

Pay Ikigai LLC for 12-month platform subscription

5. **You receive tax deduction for charitable contribution to 501(c)(3)**

Church provides written acknowledgment of donation per IRS requirements

### Required Documentation for Tax Deduction

To ensure your tax deduction is valid, the following documentation is required:

- **Written donation letter to church specifying:**

Total donation amount

Specific allocation: \$X for garden supplies, \$Y for Ikigai Gardens platform

Restriction that funds must be used only for designated purposes

- **Written acknowledgment from church confirming:**

Receipt of restricted donation

Agreement to use funds only for specified purposes

Church's 501(c)(3) tax ID number

IRS-compliant donation acknowledgment statement

- **Invoice from Ikigai LLC to church for platform subscription**

***IMPORTANT: Consult your tax advisor to ensure compliance with IRS regulations for restricted charitable contributions.***

## Sponsor Benefits

Your sponsorship includes:

- **100% tax-deductible donation**

Charitable contribution to 501(c)(3) church

- **Public recognition**

Garden signage featuring your organization's name

Recognition on Ikigai Gardens website and social media

- **Quarterly impact reports**

Pounds of produce harvested

Number of families served

Volunteer hours contributed

Photos and success stories from your sponsored garden

- **Employee engagement opportunities**

Team volunteer days at your sponsored garden

Corporate team-building activities

Employee-led fundraising and advocacy initiatives

- **Event invitations**

Garden dedication ceremony

Harvest celebration events

- **CSR and ESG reporting support**

## 2026 Pilot Program Details

**Target Counties:**

- Richland County
- Sumter County
- Calhoun County
- Fairfield County

**Timeline:**

- Q1 2026: Church recruitment and sponsorship matching
- Q2 2026: Garden startup, planting, initial training
- Q3-Q4 2026: Growing season, harvest, impact measurement
- Q1 2027: Final impact reports, program evaluation

## How to Become a Sponsor

**Step 1: Contact Ikigai Gardens**

Email: [info@ikigaigardens.com](mailto:info@ikigaigardens.com)

Website: [www.ikigaigardens.com](http://www.ikigaigardens.com)

### **Step 2: Select Your Sponsorship**

Choose to sponsor a single church garden (\$5,000-\$8,000) or multiple churches (custom package available).

### **Step 3: Church Matching**

We will match you with a church in your preferred county based on readiness, community need, and mission alignment.

### **Step 4: Documentation**

Execute donation letter with restricted fund designation

Receive written acknowledgment from church

### **Step 5: Garden Launch**

Church uses funds to purchase supplies and pay for platform subscription. Garden begins planting and production.

## **Partner With Us**

Together, we can address food insecurity in South Carolina—one garden at a time. Your sponsorship provides sustainable solutions that will continue feeding families for years to come.

For more information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact us today.

**Email:** [Ikigaillcapps@gmail.com](mailto:Ikigaillcapps@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://ikigaienterprises.biz>

**Location:** South Carolina

## **Sources & References**

### **Food Insecurity Statistics:**

Feeding America. (2024). Map the Meal Gap 2024: South Carolina Food Insecurity Data.

### **Community Garden Budget Research:**

University of Minnesota Extension. (2024). Community Garden Economics and Startup Costs.

American Community Gardening Association. (2025). Community Garden Cost Analysis and Budget Planning.

### **Garden Yield Estimates:**

Based on documented harvest data from established community gardens and agricultural extension research on South Carolina growing conditions (Zone 8a).

**Ikigai Gardens**  
*Where Purpose Takes Root*