February 19, 2020

Supporting Educational Success
Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to apply for funding. An invitation to submit a proposal in no way guarantees a grant award. This is a competitive process. The deadline for proposal submission is Friday, April 3, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.

A majority of the funds used in this process are available thanks to the generosity and forward thinking of our donors. Some funds are restricted in various ways, as directed by donors, which influences funding decisions.

Funding Focus
GCF has a dynamic history of investing in educational success throughout our eight-county region. We live in a region with sizable disparities by race and economic status, and educational attainment has proven to be a primary means of advancement in our society. RFPs should explicitly address the following purposes:

To support in and/or out of school educational efforts that reduce disparities in educational and career attainment for students of color and/or those of low socioeconomic status; or that increase social-emotional learning and health for those students.

Use of Funds
Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, enact capital improvements, launch a new program or build organizational capacity. Collaboration between like organizations is highly favored. Funding will not be awarded for campaigns or special events. Grants will be awarded in the amount of up to $25,000.

Criteria
• Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status and/or a school or church.
• Grants will be made to organizations with efforts based in the Greater Cincinnati region, which includes the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Kentucky; and Dearborn in Indiana.
• Preference will be given to:
  o Organizations that develop solutions with a racial equity lens. A racial equity lens is an approach that involves many components, including:
    ▪ Disaggregating and analyzing data and information by race and ethnicity,
    ▪ Understanding disparities and learning why they exist,
    ▪ Looking at problems and their root causes from a structural standpoint,
    ▪ Naming race explicitly when talking about problems and solutions,
  o Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes that clearly demonstrate anticipated improvement of educational achievement and/or career outcomes.
  o Proposals addressing key factors influencing educational outcomes (e.g. attendance, discipline reduction, classroom management, etc.).
  o Organizations that have demonstrated partnerships and alignment to community-wide efforts.
  o Organizations that have demonstrated insights from their past results.
• Proposals will be accepted from any organization that meets these criteria and aligns strongly with the details of this RFP.
• If your organization needs to utilize a fiscal agent, the fiscal agent must be identified in the application.

Grant Limitations
GCF does not provide funding for the following purposes, entities or activities:
• Religious organizations that require religious activity for participation.
• Playgrounds, sports teams or sports activities.
• Regular operating or capital projects for individual public, private or parochial schools or universities (including student clubs, school bands, booster clubs, PTAs, etc.).
• Vehicles.
Application Process
Respond to this RFP via GCF’s online grantmaking system using the “GCF Responsive Grant Application.” After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

Upload the following documents in the final section of the application:
- List of key staff for program success, including their role and qualifications.
- Board list and organization demographics
- Project budget
- Most recent audit or 990
- Income statement AND balance sheet (two years of data as up-to-date as possible)

Templates are provided for organizational demographics, project budget, income statement and balance sheet. The use of all these templates is highly encouraged and is required for the organizational demographics form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Steps</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP Workshop (optional)*</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 4, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Cincinnati Foundation</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120</td>
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<td>Cincinnati, OH 45202</td>
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<td>Proposal Deadline</td>
<td>Friday, April 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision Communicated</td>
<td>Mid June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Received</td>
<td>Early July</td>
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*The RFP workshop is meant to support application efforts by providing an overview of GCF’s application process. This is not a grant writing workshop. We encourage all applicants to start your applications early and prior to the grant workshop. Questions are welcome throughout the process (see Questions section below for more information).
Questions
Answers to general questions are available on our website at www.gcfdn.org/faq.

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Zohar Perla, Program Officer, at zohar.perla(gcfdn.org) or 513-768-6163. She is the GCF staff member leading this RFP process and should serve as your primary contact. Questions about the Foundant system or process timeline can be directed to Rosie Polter, Grants Associate, at rosie.polter(gcfdn.org). Thank you for considering partnership with Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and we look forward to learning from your submission.

GCF Mission

As a trusted and connected partner, we inspire generous people to invest in a more equitable and vibrant region, now and for generations to come.