



Release Date: October 6, 2017

Community Organizing & Policy Advocacy Request for Proposals

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation welcomes requests for funding to support community organizing and/or policy advocacy. The deadline for presenting your partnership opportunity is **Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 by 5:00 pm**. The invitation to submit a proposal in no way guarantees a grant award. This is a competitive process.

Funding Focus

Community organizing combines the best of leadership development, coalition building, communications, policy advocacy and collective action. The Foundation has dedicated resources to heal and strengthen one of our most fundamental resources – the ties that bind us together. This RFP extends a long history of Foundation investments in Strong Communities.

Purpose:

To invest in community-led efforts that recognize the wisdom and creativity that is inherent within every neighborhood of our region.

Results:

To help neighbors and community groups establish common bonds, deepen relationships and take action on top priorities toward a more equitable community.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used to:

- Develop plans to identify neighborhood priorities and/or issues;
- Implement and refine existing plans; and/or
- Build leadership and organizational capacity through education, training, and participatory research.

Grants will be awarded in two categories:

- Planning grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to fund new community organizing or policy advocacy efforts or similarly focused efforts that are in need of capacity-building support to generate momentum.
- Implementation grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to provide general operating support for established community organizing or policy advocacy campaigns that can demonstrate momentum and/or other funding support.



Eligibility

At minimum, the Foundation asks that applicants are:

- Located and do work in the Foundation's eight-county service area (Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren in Ohio; Boone, Campbell, and Kenton in Kentucky; and Dearborn County, Indiana) and
- Constituent-led organizations that work directly with low-income and/or people of color.

Priority will be given to requests for support from applicants that:

- Are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or have a qualified tax-exempt fiscal sponsor that is in good standing with the IRS;
- Have a process for building a base of members and leaders and engaging them in structured, regular leadership development activities;
- Have clear and well-developed goals and objectives for effecting change on an institutional, community, systems, city- and/or county-wide level;
- Work effectively in collaboration with other local organizations;
- Create space for learning through tracking impact, systemic change and policy wins at the neighborhood, institutional, local and/or regional level; and
- Employ an economic inclusion and racial justice analysis that prioritizes building relationships between diverse communities.

Grant Limitations

The following activities are not eligible for support:

- Partisan political activity
- Entities that aim to re-grant dollars to others
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Capital projects

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 to an existing account, complete all required fields and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP

Please upload the following documents in the final section of the application:

- List of personnel who will drive project success (staff, board members, volunteers and consultants), their roles and qualifications and/or lived experience
- Project Budget
- Current Income Statement & Balance Sheet (last 2 years) or the appropriate documents from your fiscal sponsor
- Most recent audit or 990; or the appropriate documents from your fiscal sponsor



RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
Proposal Deadline	November 3, 2017 by 5:00 pm
Decision Communicated	By December 31, 2017
Funding Available	By December 31, 2017

Questions

Please direct any questions that you may have to Michael Coffey, Program Officer, at 513-241-2880 or coffeym@gcfdn.org. This is the GCF staff person leading this RFP process and should serve as your primary contact. Thank you for considering partnership with The Greater Cincinnati Foundation and we look forward to learning from your submission.

About The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

One of the nation's leading community foundations, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation helps people make the most of their giving to build a better community. We believe in the power of philanthropy to change the lives of people and communities. As an accredited community foundation, GCF creates a prosperous Greater Cincinnati by investing in thriving people and vibrant places. An effective steward of the community's charitable resources since 1963, the Foundation inspires philanthropy in eight counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. www.gcfdn.org