



Release Date: June 28, 2018

Strengthening Communities Through Organizing and Advocacy

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) welcomes requests for funding to support community organizing and policy advocacy. The deadline for presenting your partnership opportunity is Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, by 5:00 pm. This is a competitive process. The invitation to submit a proposal does not guarantee a grant award.

Funding Focus

Community organizing is a fundamental approach toward achieving inclusive growth in our region. It combines the best of leadership development, coalition building, communications, policy advocacy and collective action. GCF has dedicated resources to strengthen one of our most fundamental resources – the ties that bind us together. This RFP extends a long history of our investments in strong communities.

Purpose:

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

Results:

Neighbors and community groups establish common bonds, take action on top priorities and achieve progress toward a more equitable community.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used to:

- Develop plans to identify neighborhood priorities;
- Implement and refine existing plans; and
- 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 community organizing and policy advocacy efforts 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 and policy advocacy campaigns that can demonstrate momentum, impact and/or other funding support.



Eligibility

At minimum, GCF asks that applicants are:

- Constituent-led organizations that work directly with people of color who are economically marginalized.
- 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
- 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.

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

- 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;
- Utilize data from the National Equity Atlas, Facts Matter or similar sources when referencing intended outcomes;
- Name a specific policy goal toward building a more equitable community;
- Work effectively in collaboration with other local organizations;
- Create space for learning through tracking impact, systemic change and policy wins at the organizational, local and/or regional level;
- 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;
- Capital projects; and
- Attempts to convert people from one religion to another.



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 and 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

Key Steps	Date
Grant Workshop	July 18, 2018 at 3:00 pm at Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Proposal Deadline	August 3, 2018 by 5:00 pm
Decisions Communicated to Applicants	By October 1, 2018
Funding Available	By October 1, 2018

Questions

Please direct any questions that you may have to our GCF staff:

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Thank you for considering a partnership with Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

About Greater Cincinnati Foundation

As the region's leading community foundation, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation connects people with purpose in an eight-county region in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. GCF is leading the charge toward a more vibrant Greater Cincinnati for everyone – now, and for generations to come.