



Release Date: April 2, 2018

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability Request for Proposals

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation 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 Monday, April 30th at 5 pm.

About the Environmental Sustainability Funds of GCF A foundational element of our cultural heritage is the belief that we do not inherit the Earth from our parents, but borrow it from our grandchildren. That lens is consistent with the agricultural history and tradition of outdoorsmanship here in the Ohio River Valley. The Ensuring Environmental Sustainability RFP honors this past by supporting forward-thinking and innovative collaborative action. This opportunity is made possible through the generosity of numerous donors who value ecological and environmental stewardship.

Funding Focus

In 2018, GCF will invest income from the funds described above in the following areas:

Purpose:

- To contribute to the conservation, restoration, and beautification of our region.
- To promote waste reduction, energy conservation, and the ecological education of future generations.

Results:

- Partners report an increase in the acreage of restored and protected natural and green space.
- Partners report an increase in the number of volunteers engaged in various activities, including but not limited to water quality monitoring and clean-up.
- Partners report reduced waste going to landfills.
- Partners report an increase in the number of buildings retrofitted for improved energy efficiency.
- Partners report increased participation in outdoor recreational activities, particularly by young people.
- Partners report an increase in the number of residents who are informed about environmental issues.

Use of Funds

Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, launch a new program, or build organizational capacity. Grantseekers may request up to \$25,000.



Criteria

- Applicants must be 501(c)(3) organizations in good standing
- Preference will be given to organizations that:
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, gender, and racial disparities relative to their work
 - Display strong community collaborations
 - Embrace leadership from communities directly impacted by environmental harms
 - Have not been awarded funding via another GCF RFP within the past twelve months
- Applications will be scored based on the following general criteria:
 - Alignment with at least one purpose of this RFP
 - Expressed community need
 - Organizational health and readiness including leadership and finances
 - Clear, feasible, sustainable project plan
- Grants will be made to organizations with efforts based and carried out in the Greater Cincinnati region including the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Kentucky; and Dearborn in Indiana

Limitations

GCF Community Strategies is not typically able to provide grant funding for the following:

- Individuals including scholarships
- Special event or conference sponsorship or underwriting
- Entities who aim to re-grant dollars to other entities
- Units of government or government agencies
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Routine computer software/hardware updates
- Endowment, capital, or annual campaigns
- Debt retirement or funding of an activity after completed
- Vehicles
- Loans or leasehold improvements
- Partisan political activity
- Production of books, films, or videos

Application Process

All potential applicants are invited to attend a grant workshop specifically relevant to this RFP (see next page for dates/locations). Attendance at a workshop is encouraged, but



not required to apply. The workshop will be an opportunity to have common as well as specific questions answered in a centralized, timely way.

Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#) using the "GCF Responsive Grant Application" and select "Environment" from the options presented at the start of the application. After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete all required fields and submit by Monday, April 30th, 2018 at 5:00PM.

Upload the following 4 documents in the final section of the application:

- Project Budget – *use of template within application highly encouraged*
- Income statement and balance sheet (2 years) – *use of template within application highly encouraged*
- Most recent audit or 990
- Board list with names, roles, affiliations, tenure and demographics

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
RFP Workshop (optional)	April 18, 2018 3-4PM @ GCF
Proposal Deadline	April 30, 2018
Funding Commitment Communicated	June 21, 2018
Fund Received	As early as July 9, 2018

Questions

Please direct questions relating to timelines and applications to Program Manager, Evienne Epifano at epifano@gcfdn.org or (513) 768-6125. Questions regarding alignment and selection can be addressed to Michael Coffey, Program Officer, at coffeym@gcfdn.org or (513) 768-6109.

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