



January 2, 2018

Providing A Safety Net for Individuals and Families Request for Proposals

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation invites your organization to apply for funding. This call to submit a proposal in no way guarantees a grant award as this is a competitive process. The deadline for proposal submission is **February 2, 2018 at 5:00PM.**

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. This grant process is made possible by GCF's generous donors, past and present. It is our privilege to connect donor dollars with the pressing needs of our region that your good, hard work aims to address. We live in a region with sizable disparities; where many of our neighbors struggle to make ends meet. When basic needs go unmet by many, our region as a whole is unable to truly thrive. This request for proposals aims to reduce these inequities and play a role in the provision of a strengthened safety net for individuals and families in our community.

Funding Focus

GCF has a long history of supporting the provision of basic, human needs in our region due to our donors' generosity. This invitation represents a continuation of this commitment. For 2018, requests in response to this RFP must squarely align with at least one of the following purposes and results:

Purposes

- 1) Ensure vulnerable residents of our region have access to food and shelter
- 2) Increase access to well-integrated and/or trauma-informed behavioral health services

Results

- 1) Number of individuals receiving basic and emergency services
- 2) Number of individuals receiving behavioral health services

Use of Funds

Requests for one year of funding up to \$35,000 to support, expand, or strengthen existing programs, launch a new program, or build organizational capacity.



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
 - 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
- 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 "Providing A Safety Net" 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 Friday, February 2, 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, and demographics

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
RFP Grant Workshop <i>(optional, but encouraged)</i>	Thursday, January 11 th 9-10AM @ GCF Friday, January 12 th 1-2PM @ Center for Great Neighborhoods
Proposal Deadline	Friday, February 2 nd at 5:00PM
Decision Communicated	Friday, April 20 th
Funding Received	As soon as Friday, May 4 th

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 Molly Robertshaw, Program Officer, at robertshawm@gcfdn.org or (513) 768-6114.

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



Frequently Asked Questions

How much can my organization apply for?

GCF is requesting that each organization submit one proposal for a maximum of \$35,000. Awards can only be considered for one year due to restrictions on funds.

How often can my organization apply for and receive funding from a GCF Request for Proposal?

Organizations are welcome to apply for any GCF RFP where alignment is clear. That said, GCF is unlikely to be able to fund a given organization through more than one RFP during any given 12 month period. As is stated in the RFP, preference will be given to organizations who have not received funding via another GCF RFP within the past twelve months. Exceptions may be made, especially in cases where one nonprofit organization serves as a fiscal agent for another.

All other funding pathways within GCF, such as grants from private foundations, donor advised funds, the Women's Fund and HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, are decided independently of any GCF RFP process, so the above statement does not apply. For more information, visit gcfndn.org/grants.

Can you elaborate on the purposes of this Request for Proposal?

The purposes of this RFP are two-fold:

The first is to ensure and expand access to food and shelter – two primary, human needs. While much of GCF's work and investments moving forward will be systems-level and social change-oriented, the focus of this RFP is to ensure these basic needs are met to the broadest extent possible. The word choice of "shelter" versus "housing" is purposeful.

The second purpose is to increase access to well-integrated and/or trauma-informed behavioral health services. GCF understands behavioral health to be inclusive of both mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Well-integrated services are those that allow for a more holistic approach to the human being in treatment. Trauma-informed work is becoming best practice in the behavioral health field and GCF aims to be supportive of organizations moving toward adopting these practices throughout their organizations.

Can you share additional details regarding the follow-up report?

GCF is interested in understanding how many individuals were served by any given grant. Other measures are requested in the application and follow-up report, but these particulars will be up to your organization to select based on the measures that make the most sense to your work. All partners who receive funds via GCF's RFPs are asked to share results in a standard format follow-up report one year following the award.



Do I have to attend the grant workshop to apply?

The grant workshops will be an opportunity to hear directly from GCF staff leading this RFP. There will be a short presentation and time for Q&A. Staff will also stay after the formal time has ended to answer any lingering, individual questions. The planned content of both workshops will be the same, so you need not attend both. Organizations are highly encouraged to send one representative to one workshop. For questions not fully answered during the grant workshop, the Program Officer and Program Manager will do their best to reply in a timely fashion (see contact info on page 3).

How are decisions made?

As is common practice at GCF, a staff member conducts an initial review, and final funding recommendations are made by committee. All proposals receive a quantitative score which informs the qualitative and strategic discussions that follow. Some funding decisions will be informed by the specific designations of individual funds. Refer to the RFP itself to gain a general understanding for what applications will be scored on.

How often can my organization receive funding via this RFP?

GCF is not generally designed to provide ongoing operating support to organizations. While this RFP will be offered every year, we advise an organization that achieves funding this cycle wait to apply again until a year after the end of the award. Please discuss with program staff if circumstances require exception to this guideline.

How will the review process be conducted?

Your written application serves as the primary means of communicating all portions of the funding request. If we have additional questions or if a site visit is needed, GCF staff will be in touch.

The application is shorter than in the past. Why?

GCF staff are working hard to make each organization's approach for funding as clear and efficient as possible. To this end, we are trialing a streamlined application. While improvements have been made following its release fall 2017, we welcome your feedback on how to continue to improve our process for future cycles.

With this RFP, are operating expenses, capital projects, or multi-year grants an option?

In limited cases, funding of operating requests are possible. Capital requests can and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any capital requests within this RFP must be clearly and closely tied to one of the purposes of this RFP. Although GCF clearly understands and values the importance of multi-year requests, these are simply not an option due to the limitations of the funding streams allocated via this RFP.

Have more questions? Visit our Frequently Asked Questions at gcfndn.org/FAQ