Release Date: October 1, 2019

Giving Black Cincinnati Giving Circle
Request for Proposals

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 Friday, November 1, 2019, by 5:00 p.m. This is an invitation-only application process.

Funding Focus
GCF and a group of passionate donors have joined together to offer this Request for Proposals (RFP) to collectively support organizations focused on removing barriers for African Americans in our region. Applications should explicitly address the following purpose:

To support nonprofit organizations and/or programming focused on improving the quality of life for African Americans in one of the following areas:
- Assisting youth under age 17 and/or youth age 18 and older aging out of foster care to access food, stable housing, legal services, education and employment.
- Assisting single mothers to access food, stable housing, legal services and otherwise remove barriers to self-sufficiency.

Use of Funds
Organizations can request funds up to $25,000. Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, enact capital improvements, launch a new program or build organizational capacity.
Criteria

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status.
- 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:
  - Organizations that develop solutions with a racial equity lens. A racial equity lens is an approach that involves many components, including:
    - Analyzing data and information about 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
  - Innovative and community-based programming serving communities that lack resources and/or opportunities
  - Projects committed to identifying and eliminating barriers to self-sufficiency for African Americans in Greater Cincinnati
  - Organizations with strong and consistent programming that have demonstrated learnings from their past results, where applicable
  - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes
- Proposals will be accepted from invited organizations that meet these criteria and align 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.

Application Process
Respond to this RFP via GCF’s online grantmaking system using the “GCF Giving Circle Application.” Enter the code “GBGC” into the Enter Access Code box at the top of the Apply page to access the application. After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.
Upload the required documents in the final section of the application. The use of provided templates is not required by highly encouraged.

“Share your Story” showcase
Only six organizations will be invited to participate in a one-night nonprofit showcase. The showcase will take place on Thursday, December 5, at Greater Cincinnati Foundation’s office from 6-8 p.m. Each nonprofit will have seven minutes to showcase the mission, vision, values and impact of its organization. The six finalists will be provided with additional information regarding presentation requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFP Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Steps</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists Notified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalist Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision Communicated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Presentation Reception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions
Answers to general questions are available on our website at [www.gcfdn.org/faq](http://www.gcfdn.org/faq). Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Michael Coffey, Program Officer, [michael.coffey@gcfdn.org](mailto:michael.coffey@gcfdn.org). Questions about the Foundant system or process timeline can be directed to Rosie Polter, Grants Associate, at [rosie.polter@gcfdn.org](mailto:rosie.polter@gcfdn.org). Thank you for considering partnership with GCF 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.