



January 6, 2021

Educational Success Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to partner with us to drive equitable change in our community. Change is sparked when people come together – in partnership, collaboration, and generosity. Our role is to align the right players. Then, coordinate their efforts and contributions in a way that creates the most impact.

GCF invests in the expertise of trusted partners to build a more equitable region. One of the many ways we support our partners is by offering competitive grants that align with our donors' interest areas. Funding in these areas is made available through our Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

This year GCF plans to distribute \$2 million across our RFPs. For the 2021 Educational Success cycle, GCF has approximately \$300,000 available and grants will be awarded up to the \$30,000 level. Grantees awarded through this cycle will be eligible to renew their grant award based on their first year follow up report. To be considered for funding, proposals must be submitted by **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Funding Focus

We live in a region with sizable disparities by race and economic status, with educational access and attainment further magnifying these gaps. Proposals should explicitly address the following purposes:

To support in and/or out of school educational efforts that address disparities in educational and career attainment for students of color and/or those of low socioeconomic status; or that increase social-emotional learning and health for those students.



Use of Funds

Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, capital improvements, launch a new program, build organizational capacity or general operating support. Collaboration between like organizations is highly favored. Funding will not be awarded for campaigns or special events. For more specifics of what funding may be used for, please review our [Grant FAQs](#).

Criteria

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status or government agency. If your organization is not a 501(c)(3), you may utilize a fiscal agent, however the fiscal agent must be identified in the application.
- 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
 - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes that address:
 - anticipated improvement of educational achievement and/or career outcomes
 - key factors influencing educational outcomes (e.g. attendance, discipline reduction, classroom management, etc.).
 - Organizations that have demonstrated partnerships, collaboration and/or alignment with community-wide efforts
 - Organizations that have demonstrated insights from their past results
 - Organizations using an asset-based approach to the work

Proposals will be accepted from any organization that meets these criteria and aligns strongly with the details of this RFP.



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, complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

Upload the following documents in the final section of the application (templates provided in the application):

- Most recent audit or 990
- Income statement and balance sheet (two years of data as up-to-date as possible)
- Project budget
- Organizational demographics
- List of key staff for program success, including their role and qualifications.

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
RFP Workshop (optional)* Via Zoom – Register here	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Proposal Deadline	Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Decision Communicated	Early May
Funding Received	Mid May

*The RFP workshop is meant to provide a brief overview of GCF's application process as well as a deeper dive into this RFP. We encourage all applicants to review the application prior to the grant workshop. Questions are welcome throughout the process (see Questions section below for more information).



Questions

Answers to general questions are available on our website at www.gcfdn.org/faq.

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Zohar Perla, Program Officer, at zohar.perla@gcfdn.org or 513-768-6163. She is the GCF staff member leading this RFP process and should serve as your primary contact. Questions about the Foundant system or process timeline can be directed to Shelby Graham, Community Strategies Coordinator, at shelby.graham@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.