



January 10, 2021

## *Inclusive Communities Cohort* Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to apply to the Inclusive Communities Cohort. The deadline to submit a Letter of Intent is **Friday, February 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** The Inclusive Communities cohort will be comprised of organizations working with individuals living with physical and developmental disabilities in our region. Organizations who are invited to participate in the cohort will be required to attend a series of professional development trainings addressing emerging needs in this field. Organizations chosen to participate in the cohort will then be eligible to apply for funding once completing the training series.

### Funding Focus

Letters of Intent should be submitted by organizations who address the following purpose:

- To support organizations that drive the inclusion of people living with physical and developmental disabilities in our region.

### Cohort Learning Experiences

To support the growth of the cohort, each organization is required to attend three professional development opportunities. Each session will be a half day, virtually over Zoom. Professional development opportunities will be focused on:

- Storytelling Strategy  
*Speaker: Shane Meeker, StoryMythos*
- Advocacy & Lobbying: The Basics  
*Speakers: Shawn Jeffers, Youth at the Center and Mike Moroski, Human Services Chamber of Hamilton County*
- Building a Racial Equity Approach - Groundwater Training  
*Speaker: Racial Equity Institute*



Cohort members will have the opportunity to openly share their learnings with each other after each session through facilitated discussions with Design Impact. Design Impact will equip participating organizations with design thinking tools and mindsets and to drive deep, inter- and intra-organizational learning. A final facilitated session will provide space for cohort members to ideate and plan their proposals for funding.

### Use of Funds

Once the professional development trainings have been completed, organizations are invited to apply up to \$25,000 in unrestricted funding. Unrestricted funding may be used, but is not limited to: supporting, expanding or strengthening existing programs, capital improvements, launching a new program, building organizational capacity or general operating support. Collaboration between organizations (within and outside the cohort) is highly recommended.

### Criteria

Proposals will be accepted for organizations that meet these criteria as well as aligns strongly with the details of this RFP.

- 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 provide direct services to individuals living with physical and developmental disabilities in our region.
- Organizations who have previously participated in GCF's 2018 and 2020 Creating Inclusive Communities Cohort.



### Application Process

Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#) using the "Inclusive Communities Cohort Application". After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the Letter of Intent and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

If invited to submit a proposal, upload the following documents in the final section of the application:

- Most recent audit or 990
- Income statement AND balance sheet (two years of data as up-to-date as possible)
- Organizational demographics form

Templates are provided for organizational demographics and income statement and balance sheet. The use of all these templates is highly encouraged and is **required** for the organizational demographics form.

### RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
Grant Workshop (optional)*	January 26, 2022
Deadline for LOI	February 11, 2022 @ 5:00pm
Cohort Invitation Communicated	March 1, 2022
Cohort PD Session #1	March 16, 2022
Cohort PD Session #2	April 20, 2022
Cohort PD Session #3	May 18, 2022
Cohort Grant Proposal Facilitation Session	June 15, 2022
Deadline for Proposals	July 8, 2022 @ 5:00pm
Funding Received	Late July

\*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 Letter of Intent prior to the grant workshop.



### Questions

We are here to be a resource throughout the application process. Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Rosie Polter, Program Officer, [rosie.polter@gcfdn.org](mailto:rosie.polter@gcfdn.org). This is the Program Officer 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, Program Manager at [shelby.graham@gcfdn.org](mailto:shelby.graham@gcfdn.org). Thank you for considering partnership with GCF and we look forward to learning from your submission.