



Release date: July 6, 2022

## *Environmental Beautification* 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 \$2.7 million across our RFPs. For the 2022 Environmental Beautification cycle, GCF has approximately \$380,000 available and grants will be awarded up to the \$25,000 level. To be considered for funding, a Letter of Intent must be submitted by **Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

### Funding Focus

Letters of Intent should explicitly address the following purpose:

- To support the environmental beautification of this region by enhancing the accessibility and quality of greenspaces and/or connecting historically marginalized groups to the benefits of nature.

### 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
  - Requests that beautify, create, conserve and/or restore greenspaces, with preference for spaces that benefit historically marginalized groups in our region.
  - Requests that connect historically marginalized groups to the benefits of nature, including but not limited to, increased fresh food access and nature education programming, particularly for children or youth.
  - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes
  - Organizations that have demonstrated partnerships, collaboration and alignment with community-wide efforts
  - Organizations that have demonstrated insights from their past results
  - Organizations using an asset-based approach to the work

### 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 Letter of Intent and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

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

- Most recent audit or 990
- Project Budget
- 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
RFP Workshop (optional)* Virtual – Register <a href="#">Here</a>	Tuesday, July 12, 2022 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Deadline for LOI	Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Application Invitation Communicated	Wednesday, August 10, 2022
Deadline for Proposals	Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Decision Communicated	Late October
Funding Received	Early November

\*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. The workshop will be recorded and available on our website.

### Questions

Answers to general questions are available on our website at [www.gcfnd.org/faq](http://www.gcfnd.org/faq).

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@gcfnd.org](mailto:rosie.polter@gcfnd.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@gcfnd.org](mailto:shelby.graham@gcfnd.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.