Boots on the Ground Fund

Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) is pleased to announce a second round of Boots on the Ground Fund grants in its continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of small, community-based organizations driving change in our city. Through a partnership with the City of Cincinnati and generous support from Interact for Health and other funders, more than $750,000 will be made available for grants, up to $25,000. Proposals will be considered for small, grassroots organizations with operating budgets of less than $1 million, that demonstrate the involvement of community members in their decision-making and give voices to those directly impacted by issues.

Funding Focus

The Boots on the Ground Fund seeks to provide support to organizations that have demonstrated experience and aim to address:

- Homelessness Prevention and Access to Affordable Housing
- Access to Affordable, Healthy Foods – Reduction of Food Deserts
- Access to Healthcare and Public Health
- Gun Violence and Gang Prevention
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development
- Mental and Behavioral Health, including Substance Use Services

The focus areas listed above are flexible and in response to community needs.

Use of Funds

- Funding may be used to support, expand, or strengthen existing programs, launch a new program, or build organizational capacity. Collaboration between organizations is highly encouraged.
- Funding will not be awarded for campaigns, capital campaigns, or special events.
Criteria

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status or government agency.
  - If the organization is not a 501(c)(3), a fiscal agent may be utilized. However, the fiscal agent must be identified in the application.
- Applicants must have an annual operating budget of less than $1 million.
- Programs or projects must directly impact residents within the City of Cincinnati.
- Preference will be given for demonstrating:
  - Prioritization of inclusion, community voice, and engaging leaders of color
  - Clear and measurable outcomes or SMART Goals
    - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound
  - Partnerships and alignment to community-wide efforts
  - Learnings from past experience
  - Asset-based approaches in the funding focus areas
- 2023 Boots on the Ground Fund grant recipients are not eligible to apply.

Application Process

Apply to the Boots on the Ground Fund Request for Proposal through the GCF online grantmaking system, Foundant at www.gcfdn.org/Foundant. After creating a new account and/or logging in, select the “Boots on the Ground Application.” **Complete the application and submit it by Thursday, January 18, 2024.**

The following (4) four documents must be uploaded for the application to be considered complete:

- Organizational Budget (or most recent 990, if applicable)
- Project Budget
- Demographic Template
- Key Staff Members

Deadline

To be considered for funding, proposals must be submitted **by Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. EST.**
Proposal Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Steps</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Request for Proposal/RFP Workshop</strong>*</td>
<td>Thursday, November 30, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual – Register <a href="#">Here</a></td>
<td>4:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Profit Management Workshop:</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, December 7, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Fundraising and Development”</td>
<td>4:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional - Register <a href="#">Here</a></td>
<td>720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Profit Management Workshop:</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, December 14, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Program Design, Delivery, and Evaluation”</td>
<td>4:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional - Register <a href="#">Here</a></td>
<td>720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Profit Management Workshop:</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, January 11, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Improving Leadership and Governance”</td>
<td>4:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional - Register <a href="#">Here</a></td>
<td>720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposal Deadline</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EST</td>
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<td><strong>Decisions Communicated</strong></td>
<td>April 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Received</strong></td>
<td>April 2024</td>
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*The RFP workshop is meant to provide a brief overview of the 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

GCF is here as a resource throughout the application process. Please direct any additional questions to [bootsontheground@gcfdn.org](mailto:bootsontheground@gcfdn.org) or (513) 241-2880.