

Release Date: November 15, 2023

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.gcfndn.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

| Key Steps | Date |
|--|---|
| Request for Proposal/RFP Workshop* Virtual – Register Here | Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. |
| Non-Profit Management Workshop: “Fundraising and Development” <i>Optional</i> - Register Here | Thursday, December 7, 2023 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. GCF – River Room 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 |
| Non-Profit Management Workshop: “Program Design, Delivery, and Evaluation” <i>Optional</i> - Register Here | Thursday, December 14, 2023 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. GCF – River Room 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 |
| Non-Profit Management Workshop: “Improving Leadership and Governance” <i>Optional</i> - Register Here | Thursday, January 11, 2023 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. GCF – River Room 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 |
| Proposal Deadline | Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EST |
| Decisions Communicated | April 2024 |
| Funding Received | April 2024 |

*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 or (513) 241-2880.