



Release Date: January 8, 2024

## *Accessible Communities*

### **Request for Proposals**

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) is expanding the opportunity to partner with organizations supporting people living with physical and developmental disabilities. Your organization is invited to partner with us to drive equitable change in our region. 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 the interest areas of our donors. 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 2024 Accessible Communities cycle, GCF has approximately \$500,000 available and grants will be awarded up to the \$30,000 level. To be considered for funding, letters of intent (LOI) must be submitted by **Friday, February 2, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (EST)**.

#### **Funding Focus**

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

- Organizations that drive the inclusion and accessibility of people living with physical and developmental disabilities in our region.
- 50% or more of those you serve are people living with physical and developmental disabilities.

#### **Use of Funds**

Funding may be used to support, expand, or strengthen existing programs, enact capital improvements, launch a new program, or build organizational capacity. Collaboration between well-aligned 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.
- Organizations meeting the above criteria are welcome to apply, however, preference will be given to:
  - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes.
  - Organizations that have demonstrated partnerships and alignment to community-wide efforts.
  - Organizations that provide direct services to people living with physical and developmental disabilities in our region.
  - Organizations that include people living with physical and developmental disabilities on their professional staff and in decision-making processes.
  - Proposals that are committed to identifying and eliminating barriers that have prevented the full accessibility of people living with a disability.
  - Organizations that have demonstrated insights from their past results.
  - Organizations using an asset-based approach to their work.

### Application Process

Respond to this RFP at [www.gcfndn.org/Foundant](http://www.gcfndn.org/Foundant) using the “GCF Responsive Application”. After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the Letter of Intent and submit it by **Friday, February 2, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (EST)**.

If invited to submit a proposal, upload the following four (4) documents in the final section of the application:

- Most recent audit or 990
- Organizational demographics
- Project budget
- Income statement and balance sheet (Most recent two years, if possible)

Templates are provided for the project budget, income statement and balance sheet. The use of these templates is optional but encouraged.

### RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
Grant Workshop (optional)* Virtual – Register <a href="#">Here</a>	Wednesday, January 17, 2024 1:00-3:00pm
<b>LOI Deadline</b>	<b>Friday, February 2, 2024 @ 5:00pm</b>
Application Invitations Communicated	Friday, March 1, 2024
<b>Deadline for Proposals</b>	<b>Friday, March 22, 2024 @ 5:00pm</b>
Decisions Communicated	May 2024
Funding Received	May 2024

\*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. The workshop will be recorded and made available on the GCF website for reference.

### Questions

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

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Tara Behanan, Program Officer, [tara.behanan@gcfdn.org](mailto:tara.behanan@gcfdn.org). 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 Hannah Hilditch, Community Strategies Coordinator, at [hannah.hilditch@gcfdn.org](mailto:hannah.hilditch@gcfdn.org).

Thank you for considering a partnership with GCF. 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.