

City of Cincinnati Competitive Grant Programs

Program Name	Program Description	Program Eligibility	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Program Website	Additional Comments	Application Date
Business / Neighborhood Support								
Business Improvement Program	This cost share beautification program is offered to registered Business Districts and Community Councils to assist in the care of flower pots within the street scape. Upon entering into a contract, the Park Board installs three seasonal flower displays and provides annual maintenance of the pots. Business Districts and Community Councils are responsible for providing the pots, soil, and half the cost of planting and annual maintenance (currently at \$330 per pot, per year).	Program limited to registered Business Districts and Community Councils with the City of Cincinnati	Parks	Crystal Courtney, Parks Division of Natural Resources Division Manager and Ann Uhlman, Parks Division of Natural Resources, Greenspace District Crew Leader	crystal.courtney@cincinnati-oh.gov ann.uhlman@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 861-9070	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cincyparks/natural-resources/greenspace/	Parks currently services 28+ districts with 3 annual container displays: Spring, Summer, Fall/Winter. Current waitlist.	Contracts initiated in October.
Environment								
Urban Agriculture	Mini-grants to support urban agriculture production and growing sites as well as local food aggregation distribution sites within the City and achieve the food goals and recommendations of the Green Cincinnati Plan.	Location of the growing site or distribution site must be within the City of Cincinnati. Applicants can be non-profit organizations or for-profit businesses and other entities may be considered.	Office of Environment and Sustainability	Robin Henderson - OES	robin.henderson@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 352-5340	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/food/urban-agriculture/	Amount awarded varies year to year based on available funding. No funding for individuals.	Applications traditionally due in December. Refer to the website for exact due date.
GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program	The Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) Seeds of Change Grant Program aims to help communities take steps toward a more sustainable and equitable future. The program encourages residents and partners to initiate projects that prioritize the environment and resilience in Cincinnati. The focus is on supporting resident-driven solutions that help those most affected by climate change in the city and bring the GCP to life in new ways.	1) Impact within the city limits; 2) Nonprofit status or fiscal sponsor in place; 3) Grassroots/Community-based effort with budget under \$500k; 4) Project must be able to be completed within 1 year of award.	Office of Environment and Sustainability	Molly Robertshaw - OES	molly.robertshaw@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 646 3821	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/green-cincinnati-plan/seeds-of-change-grant-program/	Different rounds have slightly different emphases and requirements, so please refer to the website for more information	Multiple; Refer to website
Housing								
Neighborhood Development Fund	The Neighborhood Development Fund (NDF) provides funds for acquisition, pre-development, and construction activities for non-profit and for-profit developers, with a focus on achieving key City policy goals surrounding housing development and neighborhood revitalization.	Non-profit and for-profit developers and Community Development Corporations (CDCs)	Office of Strategic Growth	Bob Bertsch and Greg Koehler - Office of Strategic Growth	greg.koehler@cincinnati-oh.gov robert.bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov	n/a	The Office of Strategic Growth will deliver these funds through the unified application process being developed with Cincinnati Development Fund (CDF). Applicants will be matched with appropriate funds from the NDF, AHTF, TIF Districts, and other City capital sources.	Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with new funding and decisions made on a quarterly basis.
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	The AHTF provides residential developers with gap financing with flexible terms for affordable housing projects.	Non-profit and for-profit developers and Community Development Corporations (CDCs)	Office of Strategic Growth	Bob Bertsch and Greg Koehler - Office of Strategic Growth	greg.koehler@cincinnati-oh.gov robert.bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov	n/a	The Office of Strategic Growth will deliver these funds through the unified application process being developed with Cincinnati Development Fund (CDF). Applicants will be matched with appropriate funds from the NDF, AHTF, TIF Districts, and other City capital sources.	Funding flows through CDF with applications and awards administered on a rolling basis throughout the year.
Essential Services	Essential Services is a new property maintenance code enforcement program that will help reduce the number of evacuations of residential tenants due to unsafe conditions within residential rental properties. The program will allow us to remediate the failure of essential building facilities, such as heat, electrical, and fire safety exiting facilities, within residential rental buildings on an emergency basis.	Any property owner, with residential occupants, who have failed to remediate a hazardous condition and would thus be forced to vacate the resident occupants.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill - Department of Buildings & Inspections	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov 513-352-1911	Buildings - Buildings (cincinnati-oh.gov)	Focus on Safe and Affordable Housing, Housing Preservation, and Public Safety; Newly funded program for FY 2024	Open on an ongoing basis.
Avondale Rehabilitation Pilot Program	The program is a grant based program to assist small scale landlords who own 5 rental units or less (5 doors)	Process still in development. The owner must be a city of Cincinnati resident and own 5 doors or less total. The address being serviced are on Lexington, Rockdale or Hutchinson streets. Owner must complete rental restoration and landlord education training.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill - Department of Buildings & Inspections	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov 513-352-1911	Buildings - Buildings (cincinnati-oh.gov)	\$500,000 grant program, contract with Max Construction Group executed September 2025. Project scope still in development.	Open on an ongoing basis.

City of Cincinnati Competitive Grant Programs

Program Name	Program Description	Program Eligibility	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Program Website	Additional Comments	Application Date
Human Services								
Boots on the Ground Fund	To strengthen the capacity of small, community-based organizations. To create more equitable solutions by prioritizing inclusion, community voice, and engagement with leaders of color and those with lived experience.	Is classified as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or collaborates with and utilizes a fiscal agent that is specifically identified in the application. Has an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million. Has a principal place of business within and serves the needs of neighborhoods within the geographic boundaries of the City of Cincinnati. Demonstrates service to one or more neighborhoods within the geographic boundaries of the City of Cincinnati in select areas.	Department of Opportunity and Resident Services	Adison Nelson - The Greater Cincinnati Foundation	adison.nelson@gcfdn.org (513) 768-6108	https://www.gcfdn.org/rfp/	Priorities include access to affordable, healthy food, access to health care & public health, Gun violence & gang prevention, Homelessness prevention & access to affordable housing, Mental Health, behavioral health & substance use services, Workforce development, Youth development.	RFP opens in CY Q4 (October, November, December)
Community Preventive Education Grant	CPD partners with local non-profit organizations that will provide support and encourage community-based drug and alcohol preventative education programs.	Organization/program needs to have a footprint within the City of Cincinnati.	Police	Josh Drake - Police Finance Management	CPDFiscal@cincinnati-oh.gov or joshua.drake@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 352-2586	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/community-involvement/community-preventive-education-program/		Applications are accepted twice a year: April & October.
Human Services Fund	Through priority initiatives, the City seeks to partner with local organizations to collaboratively use their data to better understand the problems facing Cincinnati residents. By introducing specific, measurable priorities and leveraging city leadership and departmental resources, we can build a stronger and healthier City, together.	Agencies must be 501(c)(3) organizations compliant with licensing, accreditation, and legal requirements. Non-profit organizations do not need to be physically located in the City of Cincinnati, but City of Cincinnati Human Services funds may only be used to support city residents.	Department of Opportunity and Resident Services	Amy Weber - United Way of Greater Cincinnati	amy.weber@uwgc.org (513) 762-7164	https://www.uwgc.org/for-nonprofits/funding-opportunities	Evaluation criteria: demonstrates a strong collaboration of multiple community partners or stakeholders; demonstrates the capacity to implement the proposed project within the time period and proposed budget; and demonstrates the experience and expertise to implement the proposed services and provide culturally responsive services to targeted communities (lived experience, representation of staff in comparison to the community, and professional education, experience, expertise)	See Human Services Fund FY26-27 Project Directory for more project information.
Leveraged Support Application Process	The City of Cincinnati provides financial support to specific programs or for the general operations of organizations that perform a service benefiting Cincinnati residents. Organizations are expected to leverage funding from the City with additional financial resources – either raised from other governmental or private entities or as earned revenue from providing a service.	The applicant must be an existing organization that has at minimum three years of audited financial statements or federal tax returns and must not be debarred from contracting or subcontracting with the City.	City Manager's Office	Tonia Smith - City Manager's Office	tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 352-5361	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/leveraged-support/	The City Manager will evaluate recommendations based on the following criteria: 1. Leverage – The extent that the City’s funds are being leveraged by other public or private sources generated by the applicant. The higher the amount of City funding requested, the higher the expectation will be for leveraging. 2. Impact – The historic and projected impact of the applicant’s services, the applicant’s demonstrated capacity to timely and effectively deliver the services, and the efficiency in use of funds to maximize funding committed to program delivery. 3. Strategic Goal Alignment – The extent that the applicant’s provided services align with the strategic goals of the City Administration and Elected Officials in addressing identified public needs or other gaps in services needed by City residents.	Annual application to open Q3 of FY (January through March)
Safety/Blight Removal								
Safe and Clean	Support and encourage community-based efforts to improve neighborhood safety, eliminate blight, and increase livability through problem solving projects.	Grants applications will be accepted from a wide variety of community groups and organizations for one-time costs associated with projects that improve safety and livability of a community. Full eligibility guidelines available on website.	City Manager's Office	Ty Wesselkamper - Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	ty@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org	https://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/resources/safe-and-clean/	Quarterly application windows.	Quarterly application windows (January, May, September)