



Release Date: July 1, 2024

Environmental Sustainability Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to partner with us to create a Greater Cincinnati where every person has a fair opportunity to thrive.

Our role is to connect generous donors with trusted nonprofits to create a vibrant region. One of the many ways we support our nonprofit 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 more than \$3 million across our RFPs. For the 2024 Environmental Sustainability cycle, GCF has approximately \$400,000 available and grants will be awarded for up to \$25,000. To be considered for funding, a Letter of Intent must be submitted by **Friday, July 19, 2024, at 5:00pm.**

Funding Focus

Letters of Intent should explicitly address the following purpose:

To support and enhance the environmental sustainability of this region by increasing the accessibility and quality of greenspaces, conservation, horticulture and/or nature education that is inclusive of historically marginalized groups.

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 at www.gcfndn.org/FAQ.

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:
 - 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.
 - 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.



Submission Process

Respond to this RFP at www.gcfdn.org/Foundant using the “GCF Responsive Application.” After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the Letter of Intent (LOI) and submit it by **Friday, July 19, 2024 at 5:00pm (EST)**.

If your organization’s LOI is selected, you will be invited to submit an application. As part of this next step, applicants will be required to provide within the application and/or submit the following information:

- 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, and organizational demographics. The use of these templates is optional.

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
Grant Workshop (optional)* Virtual – Register Here	Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:00-4:00pm
LOI Deadline	Friday, July 19, 2024 @ 5:00pm
Application Invitations Communicated	Friday, August 16, 2024
Deadline for Application Proposals	Friday, September 6, 2024 @ 5:00pm
Decisions Communicated	November 2024
Funding Released	November 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 are welcomed throughout the process (see the Question section below for more information).*



Questions

Answers to general questions are available on our website at www.gcfdn.org/FAQ.

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to **Kristin Riepenhoff Zelinkas, Program Officer**, Kristin.Zelinkas@gcfdn.org. She is the GCF staff member leading this RFP process and will serve as your primary contact. Questions about the Foundant system or process timeline can be directed to Hannah Hilditch, Community Investment Coordinator, at Hannah.Hilditch@gcfdn.org.

Thank you for considering a partnership with GCF. We look forward to learning from your submission.

GCF Mission

We connect generous donors with trusted nonprofits to create a vibrant Greater Cincinnati where every person has an opportunity to thrive.