



Release Date: February 7, 2025

The Inspiring Hope Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Request for Proposals

The Inspiring Hope Fund (IHF) of GCF invites your organization to submit your request for funding that will drive equitable change in our community. Change is sparked when people come together – in partnership, collaboration and generosity. The role of IHF is to support those organizations that are driving real change. The funding is intended to support those efforts and contributions in a way that creates the most impact.

IHF assists children and families in need of support to build a more equitable region. IHF is offering competitive grants that align with its donors' interest areas. Funding in these areas is made available through our Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

This year, IHF and its passionate donors have joined together to meaningfully and collectively support grants through this RFP. Grants will be awarded from \$5,000 up to \$15,000. To be considered for funding, proposals must be submitted by **Friday, March 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Funding Focus

Proposals should explicitly address **one** of the following purpose(s):

- Early childhood reading and education for children under age 6
- Education and development of the families of single mothers, ages 15 – 35
- Education and housing for emancipated youth from foster care, ages 17 – 25

Use of Funds

Funding may be used to support, expand, or strengthen existing programs or launch a new program. Collaboration between like organizations is highly favored. Funding will not be awarded for capital, campaigns or special events. For more specifics of what funding may be used for, please contact Robert Killins at 513-768-6151 or via email at robert.killins@gcfdn.org.

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:
 - Small to mid-size organizations with operating budgets under \$1 million.
 - Organizations providing childhood reading and education for children under age 6
 - Organizations that focus on the education and development of youth, ages 15-24, single mothers, ages 15 - 35
 - Organizations that develop solutions with a racial equity lens
 - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes
 - Organizations using an asset-based approach to the work

Application Process

Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#) using the "GCF Inspiring Hope Fund Application". After creating a new account and/or logging in, click on the orange "Apply" link and enter "IHF2025" in the "Enter Access Code" box at the top of the page and click the "Enter Code" button and complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

Upload the following 3 documents in the final section of the application:

- Most recent audit or 990
- Project Budget
- Income statement and balance sheet for most recently completed 2 fiscal year-ends

Templates are provided for the project budget, income statement and balance sheet. The use of these templates is not required, but highly encouraged.

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
Proposal Deadline	March 14, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Decision Communicated	May/June
Funding Received	May/June

Questions

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

We are here to be a resource throughout the application process. Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Robert Killins, Vice President, Community Investments at robert.killins@gcfdn.org. This is the Program Officer leading this RFP process and should serve as your primary contact. Thank you for considering a partnership with GCF and 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.