



Release Date: February 10, 2025

Learning Links

Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your school or organization to apply for a Learning Links grant. These grant funds are available through the continuing support of Charles H. Dater Foundation. To be considered for funding, proposals must be submitted by **Friday, April 25, 2025, at 5:00pm.**

GCF invests in the expertise of trusted partners in the education space to build a more equitable region. One of the many ways we support our 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.

Grants for the 2025 Learning Links cycle will be awarded for up to \$2,500. Projects or events must take place from September 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026 or during the 2025-2026 school year. Each organization or school may only submit one application, but the program can be held in partnership with any number of schools, classrooms, or communities.

Funding Focus

Program proposals should explicitly address the following purpose:

- To provide engaging programs or events that support the educational success of children aged birth through 18 years, in classrooms, schools, or community spaces where children learn.

Use of Funds

Funding may be used to support, expand, or strengthen existing programs, purchase equipment or supplies, launch a new program, or build organizational capacity. 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.
- Schools and/or organizations must be located or serving in the Greater Cincinnati region which includes the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont (OH); Boone, Kenton and Campbell (KY); and Dearborn (IN).
- Entities meeting the above criteria are welcome to apply; however, preference will be given to projects that:
 - Employ developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) in any programs serving children 0-8 years of age.
 - Have an explicit emphasis on growing children’s and young people’s social-emotional skills: e.g., co-regulation, communication, or conflict resolution.
 - Provide students’ families and/or communities the opportunity to be involved with children’s learning.

Application Process

Submit your application at www.gcfnd.org/Foundant using the “Learning Links Application.” After creating a new account and/or logging in, **please complete and submit the application by Friday, April 25, 2025 at 5:00pm.**

Upload the following three (3) documents in the final section of the application:

- Most recent audit or 990
- Project budget
- Income statement and balance sheets from the previous 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
RFP Release	Monday, February 10, 2025
Proposal Deadline	Friday, April 25, 2025 - 5:00pm
Decision Communicated	Beginning of August 2025
Funding Received	Mid-August 2025



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, at kristin.zelinkas@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, Grants Manager, at hannah.hilditch@gcfdn.org.

Thank you for considering 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 a fair opportunity to thrive.