



October 17, 2025

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager *SM*

Subject: **Funding announcement: Protecting the Mental Health & Safety of Transgender and Gender Nonbinary Youth**

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In November 2024, following increased political rhetoric targeted towards the transgender (TGD) community and an alarming increase in suicide rates amongst TGD youth, Council allocated funding to protect the mental health and safety of transgender (TGD) and nonbinary youth. To best identify the emerging needs in the TGD youth community, Interact for Health surveyed 115 people who identify as TGD/nonbinary youth, or their caregivers, as well as organizations that serve TGD/nonbinary youth. The results of the survey were used to craft the Request for Proposals (RFP).

There is a priority focus of projects that provide safe spaces for TGD/nonbinary youth, remove barriers to participation in health care, support, and community, educate providers and the public on TGD needs, and increase opportunities for TGD/nonbinary youth to participate in affirming activities.

Applications for this funding were scored by a panel comprised of 5 medical professionals with expertise in gender affirming care, 5 TGD youth, and 3 parents of TGD or queer youth with grant experience.

The City of Cincinnati is investing \$250,000 per year through 2 annual award cycles. The fund is managed on behalf of the City by Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati.

Applicant	Annual Award	Project description
Transform	\$50,000	Founded in 2019, Transform provides clothing, resources, and community support for TGD people in Cincinnati. Transform will use this funding to expand open hours on weekends and after school hours to increase accessibility for youth and families. They offer all resources at no cost.

Applicant	Annual Award	Project description
Heartland Trans Wellness	\$40,000	Founded 15+ years ago, Heartland Trans Wellness will use this funding to establish a youth-led training program to better equip healthcare providers, schools, government offices, and places of worship to better serve TGD youth. They will provide at least 10 trainings and educate 400 people with this funding.
Equality Ohio	\$31,575	Equality Ohio's Legal Clinic was founded in 2019 to provide civil legal representation to LGBTQ+ people living at or below 300% FPL and also provides training to LGBTQ+ and ally attorneys in Ohio to increase access to attorneys. They will use this funding to hold 2 youth centered and one general pop-up legal clinics to assist with name and gender marker changes which help TGD and nonbinary people gain employment and housing.
National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Foundation	\$23,425	The Ohio chapter of the NASW will use this funding to offer the CEU-accredited <i>Navigating New Laws</i> training to additional Cincinnati based mental health providers. This training equips providers understand state laws so that they can safely serve TGD youth and is led by a TGD social worker. Access to affirming and confidential mental health care is identified as a leading need among TGD youth.
GLSEN Greater Cincinnati	\$22,500	GLSEN is a national organization aimed at protecting the rights of students to a safe, supportive education. The Cincinnati chapter will use this funding to hire 2 additional facilitators for their weekly Youth Support Group for LGBTQ+ youth and to establish an emergency fund to help youth access immediate needs such as transportation and housing.
Queer Kentucky <i>operating in Cincinnati</i>	\$20,000	Queer Kentucky is the only LGBTQ+ specific news outlet in the region, uplifting the stories of TGD youth, increasing access to resources, and highlighting TGD joy and success. They will use this funding to expand their reach into Cincinnati by creating a TGD youth digital magazine and paying 15 Cincinnati TGD youth to develop. The magazine will share Cincinnati TGD youth stories, provide guides on accessing mental health services, and spotlight inclusive Cincinnati businesses and events.

TransOhio, Inc.	\$15,000	TransOhio was founded in 2005 to provide advocacy and resources to the trans community in Ohio. They provide mutual aid, legal services, state & local advocacy and more. This funding will go towards their Annual Trans and Ally Symposium in Cincinnati which will have workshops, healing spaces, panels. They will provide transportation vouchers to increase accessibility.
Camp Lilac	\$12,000	Camp Lilac offers TGD youth a safe summer camp experience so that they can experience the same positive camp experiences as their cisgender peers. This funding will help create a scholarship for Cincinnati youth to attend, hire a part time staff member to lead targeted outreach in Cincinnati to recruit more campers, and provide Cincinnati based campers with transportation to camp.
Trans-Masc Cincy	\$10,000	Trans-Masc Cincy is a community group aimed at the intergenerational connection of transgender men and transmasculine people. This funding will go towards holding 2 retreats for TGD men and transmasculine people aimed at continuing to build community. Funding will cover food, lodging, and transportation.

cc: John Brazina, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Deanna White, Director, Human Services