




February 27, 2026

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager 

Subject: Safe and Clean Neighborhood Grant Awards

---

The Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund is designed to support and encourage community-based and community-initiated efforts to improve neighborhood safety, eliminate blight, and increase livability through local-level problem solving approaches and projects. There is a priority focus of projects located in Cincinnati's top ten neighborhoods experiencing gun violence and projects that engage youth. The fund is managed on behalf of the City by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

In 2026, the City of Cincinnati is investing \$549,060 through three award cycles: in January, May, and September.

We are pleased to announce the awardees for the January 2026 grant cycle:

Applicant	Neighborhood influence	Project description
Activities Beyond the Classroom  <i>Award Total: \$25,000</i>	Roselawn, Bond Hill, Carthage	This project will revitalize the track and field facilities at Woodward High School, transforming the space into a safe, well-lit, accessible, and community-accessible asset. Funds will be used to pay students to design and construct elements of the facilities and relevant facilitators; cover student transportation and meals; and improve safety, cleanliness, and activation of public space.
Avondale Development Corporation  <i>Award Total: \$10,001</i>	Avondale	The Avondale Safe Neighborhood Academy is a series of 9 monthly sessions in which residents take an active role in educating themselves on a variety of topics including the roles and responsibilities of residents, the school system, and the police department. Youth will lead the designing of 2 clean ups in Avondale.
Christian Ministries, Inc. (DBA: Garden of Joy)	Located in Camp Washington but draws	Garden of Joy operates an afterschool program and summer program that engages youth in nonviolence education, restorative practices, food literacy, gardening, and shared family

<p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$25,000</i></p>	<p>youth from CPS high schools.</p>	<p>meals that support food-insecure families. In the past year, volunteers have found discarded syringes in our garden, creating urgent safety concerns. Grant funds will support harm-reduction and safety infrastructure, including a sharps disposal box, safety signage, and a “Little Free Library” with substance-use resources. Funds will also support food and pantry costs, stipends for volunteers under the age of 30 and garden supplies to maintain a clean, safe, and positive community space.</p>
<p>Cincinnati Urban Promise (CUP)</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$29,610</i></p>	<p>East Westwood Westwood</p>	<p>CUP is transforming its property into an edible garden that will serve as a resource for local residents. This initiative aims to foster community engagement, promote sustainable living, and provide fresh, nutritious produce for all. The garden will feature a diverse array of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, available to be harvested by the public. Students in their WestRoots agriculture workforce program will take the lead on the design and implementation of the garden spaces.</p>
<p>Price Hill Wellness Community Action Team (PWHCAT)</p> <p><i>Award total:</i> <i>\$19,660</i></p>	<p>Price Hill: East, West, Lower</p>	<p>PHWCAT activates neighborhood spaces through youth-led, family-inclusive, trauma informed wellness classes and beautification projects that reduce crime and support community health. offer 12 free weekly classes for youth and families in community spaces and pair them with regular cleanups.</p>
<p>Westwood Community Garden</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$1,948</i></p>	<p>Westwood, North Fairmount</p>	<p>Funding will be used for youth stipends working to replace 15 garden beds. The youth will come from Cincinnati Public schools.</p>
<p>Whitney Strong, Inc. (W/S)</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$17,518</i></p>	<p>Roselawn, Bond Hill, and others</p>	<p>W/S and Brothas Inc. will co-host Safe &amp; Strong Saturdays, a youth-led safety and beautification program. Approximately 23 young people will take the lead in selecting and conducting 2-3 beautification projects while also receiving mentoring from Brothas Inc. and safety training through W/S’s Save A Life Program in bleeding control and mental wellness.</p>

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