



GREEN CINCINNATI PLAN
Seeds of Change
Grant Program
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION
Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies



Background & Overview

Cincinnati was one of 100 cities across the world selected to receive and initiate the Youth Climate Action microgrant program. Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, United Cities and Local Governments, and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at John Hopkins, this \$50,000 initial award [00] the [00] of youth projects that address climate change. Cincinnati was awarded this grant because of its leadership in sustainability initiatives and the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) which provides 30 goals, 40 strategies, and 130 priority actions in aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Harbored within the City's GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program that assists communities in taking the steps to pursue the goals of the GCP, the Youth Climate Action grant invites participants ages 15 through 24 to continue this work and create new climate change mitigation strategies that promote sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Purpose

Through the Seeds of Change Grant Program, the Youth Climate Action grants aspire to uplift youth and award sustainable innovation. The grants will support youth-led and or youth-serving initiatives that tackle issues related to climate change within the City of Cincinnati. These projects should involve and benefit neighborhoods and residents most affected by climate change.

Use of Funds

The city is accepting project applications that range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The projects should bring the goals of the GCP to life through creative ideas, solutions, and initiatives that combat climate issues locally.

The proposed projects need to be launched and completed within the four-month grant period (between September 2024 to December 2024). The focus of the funding must be on capital expenses (supplies and materials) or services (volunteer compensation, events, and outreach), not operating support (such as personnel or rent). Compensation in the form of administrative fees and stipends for youth participation is an acceptable use of funds, but it cannot exceed 20% of the total budget.

The types of projects that could align include but are not limited to: awareness, education, research and co-development initiatives, launching climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and youth involvement in leadership of the GCP. More in-depth project ideas are available [here!](#)

Ineligible work includes expanding ongoing projects, general operating support (such as personnel salary and benefits), political campaigns or partisan work, lobbying, work outside the funding or location focus, or entertainment.

Eligibility

To qualify for the grant, interested groups must meet the following eligibility criteria. If all requirements are met, the applicant is encouraged to proceed with the application. All applications must be received by July 15th at 11:59 PM to be considered.

1. Youth-Led and/or Youth Serving – Applicant’s initiative must feature at least three individuals between the ages of 15-24 in leadership positions who actively participate in decision-making and/or be a part of an organization that provides core programs and resources specifically designed for youth.
2. New – The efforts must create a new project or initiative; not expand an existing activity.
3. Actionable – The efforts must be able to be fully completed within the four-month grant period.
4. Nonprofit Status– Applicants must prove their nonprofit status or apply with the support of a nonprofit fiscal sponsor. See Resources for more information.
5. Impact Cincinnati – The efforts must impact one or more neighborhoods within the city limits.

Before Applying

Some people may have experience applying for grant funding while others do not. To increase participation and ensure complete applications are submitted, an info session will be held June 13th to provide more information about the program. If any questions arise before the info session or application due date, please email oes@cincinnati-oh.gov and a team member will respond.

The info session will provide more background on the grant program and allow time for questions. The session will be recorded and uploaded to the OES website for you to access at your leisure. In addition, the grant program team will be available for virtual office hours to answer your questions and provide feedback on your application. These sessions will be available in June and bookable online via Microsoft Teams. More information on dates, times and booking instructions can be found on the [website](#) .

Step	Date
Info Session	Thursday, June 13, 2024 5:30PM – 7:00 PM Visit our website for more information.
Open Office Hours	<i>Coming in June! Visit the bookings page to schedule.</i>

Fiscal Sponsorship

To receive grant funds for your project, your initiative must be affiliated with a nonprofit organization. If you are not a nonprofit, you will need to secure a fiscal sponsor with a designated bank account registered to the organization (not an individual). This means the organization will handle the funds of your project and make sure they are used in alignment with the project application.

Applying

To be eligible for funding, you must submit a completed application by the deadline of July 15, 2024, by 11:59 PM. Any incomplete or late applications cannot be considered. A complete application includes the application form (online, paper) and project budget. To make the process easier, you are encouraged to complete the online application. If you need to submit a paper application, please mail it or drop it off at the following address. Both components must be submitted together by July 15th for your request to be eligible for consideration.

Office of Environment and Sustainability
 Attn: Seeds of Change Grant Program, Youth Climate Action
 801 Plum Street, Room 130
 Cincinnati, OH, 45202

Timeline

Step	Date
Application DUE	July 15 th at 11:59 PM
Application Review/Approval	July 16 th – August 29 th
Award/Decline Notification	August 30, 2024
Implementation Timeframe	Sept – Dec 31, 2024
Grant Reports DUE	January 31, 2025

Decision Making

During this program, between 8 to 15 grants will be awarded from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each, for a total of \$40,000. Projects that match the following priorities will be the strongest competitors:

- The project will benefit communities most impacted by climate change
- Youth from communities most impacted by climate change (heat, flooding, poor air quality) are leading or have contributed to the project’s design
- The group applying for the grant can carry out the project
- Alignment with at least one of the GCP’s sustainability, equity, and resilience strategies
- The applicant or their fiscal sponsor is a non-profit/grassroots organization

A group of 6-8 community members, including youth, priority community residents and experts in sustainability, equity, and resilience, will review the applications and make decisions based on these priorities.

Awards

After being selected for a grant, the grant recipient will be notified in writing and the project will be eligible to begin implementation after initial set up with the city. If the grant is given to a non-profit organization other than the one carrying out the project, a written fiscal sponsorship agreement must be made between the two organizations and submitted with the initial application. You will find a fiscal sponsorship agreement template with the other resources below. The awarded organization will also need to register as

a vendor of the city. Once the award notification is received by the grant recipient, vendor setup instructions will be included and can be completed. After the vendor set up is complete, grant funds can be sent to the organization. The organization must keep proof of payments for final reporting.

Reporting

Grant recipients are asked to document the impact of funded efforts by photos, stories, numbers, and any other means desired. In October, a mid-project update will be requested that maps out the project's progress so far. Final grant reporting is due January 31, 2025. Templates for reporting will be provided.

Questions

Contact the Youth Climate Action team at oes@cincinnati-oh.gov

Resources

- [Example Project Ideas](#)
- [Green Cincinnati Plan Website](#)
- [City of Cincinnati map link](#)
- [Climate Equity Indicators Report](#)
- [Climate Safe Neighborhoods Resilience Plans](#)
- [GCP Equity Framework](#)
- [Fiscal Sponsor Overview and Template](#)

Other related funding:

- [City Competitive Grant Programs List](#)
- [City Community Budget Request](#)
- [Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Safe & Clean Neighborhood Fund](#)
- [Hamilton County Resource grants](#)