

GCP Seeds of Change

Frequently Asked Questions

I've never written a grant before. How can I submit a solid, complete application?

- If you respond to all fields in the application and include a budget document, your application will be considered. If you are working with a nonprofit to apply as a fiscal sponsor, include a signed Memorandum of Understanding with your application.
- Attend the pre-application info session or watch the video recording. Email OES@cincinnati-oh.gov with any remaining questions and our team will do our best to get back to you in a timely manner.
- Describe your project in detail outlining the need for your effort and how it connects to your community's interests/needs and the priorities of the Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP). A detailed application with a clear need and plan to accomplish will always be more solid.

My project appears to be eligible. How do I know if it will be competitive?

- The competitiveness of your project will depend on how many applications are submitted, how strongly aligned the applications are to the stated priorities, and how many funds are available.
- Clear eligibility and a strong connection to the stated priorities in the Grant Guidelines will allow for your proposal to compete well. The availability of funds is always a limiting factor.
- Your neighborhood's need for your project-based on the environmental justice concerns posed by climate change as well as true neighborhood-based leadership also allow for a more competitive application.

My organization has received GCP Seeds of Change funding before. Can I apply again? Does it have to be for a different project?

- If you have received funds before and successfully completed and closed your project, then another application is welcome. Your request can be for a similar effort in a different location or a different effort in the same location. Additional funding for the same project in the same location will only be able to be considered if it is an expansion of the prior funded effort or if it has been a year since the first grant's closure. GCP SOC can simply not be ongoing operating support for any organization or effort.

The Grant Guidelines say that projects in certain focus areas will be prioritized. What does that mean? If I submit a Food, Natural Environment, or Community Activation focused application does that mean I don't stand a chance?

- As you know, the Green Cincinnati Plan has 8 focus areas. Projects in some focus areas (Food, Natural Environment, and Community Activation) have received dramatically more support than projects in other focus areas simply because most requests come from those types of projects. OES would like to encourage resident action in the Buildings & Energy, Mobility, Resilience & Climate Adaptation, and Zero Waste focus areas to give those focus

areas a stronger infusion of action. This does not mean that no proposals in the other, more historically heavily funded focus areas will not receive any grant funds – that is unlikely, in fact – we just want to encourage more action in the others because these need resident action as well!

How will funds be provided?

- The funds will be provided upfront, in full, within two weeks of being notified of the award by email. The check will be sent from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Please double check that your organization's EIN number and mailing address are correct in the application before submitting as these are used to ensure receipt of grant funds in a timely manner. Any unspent funds must be returned at the end of the project.

If my project isn't funded, will there be another opportunity to submit the same project?

- There are plans to hold a similar round spring 2027. If you can heed the general feedback shared in your decline notification, you are welcome to resubmit a similar request.
- Additional funding opportunities are also noted at the end of the Grant Guidelines in the Resources section. Refer there for additional, similar funding opportunities that may fit better for your project.

My organization's annual budget exceeds \$500,000. Can I still apply for funding?

- The program is geared towards smaller, grassroots organizations that have projects they would like to complete but may not have the funding to do so. This may disqualify larger organizations. If your organization's annual budget is \$500,000 or above, your application will be declined. We encourage partnership to accomplish shared goals.

I have questions about my organization's eligibility and would like to contact an OES team member. How do I get in touch for assistance?

- Please attend or review the recording from the Pre-Application Info Session. Many common questions will be addressed there. It will be posted on the [program's website](#) shortly after the event. If your questions are not answered in that forum, email your questions to OES@cincinnati-oh.gov to pose your question and receive a response.

Can the funding be used to host an educational event?

- Yes, if the educational event is scheduled to take place during the project implementation timeframe, June 18, 2026-June 17, 2027, the awarded funds can be used.

How do I know if I require a fiscal sponsor?

- If your organization does not identify as a non-profit with the IRS, you are required to secure a fiscal sponsor prior to applying. Review the [Fiscal Sponsor Overview and Template](#) for more information.

What percentage of the overall budget can support administrative costs?

- We understand that it takes capacity to manage a grant. If you are serving as a fiscal sponsor or need to request a portion of the grant for administrative purposes, a maximum of 15% of the total budget can be used for administrative costs.