



Economic Mobility

Communities thrive when people have access to good jobs, support for entrepreneurship, and opportunities to build generational wealth. Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) is committed to addressing systemic economic inequities and building a more just, inclusive economy through targeted efforts to build economic mobility for low-income residents and people of color throughout our region.

This funding opportunity supports innovative approaches to advancing economic growth and promoting a stronger, more effective workforce. We prioritize economic mobility efforts for our most disenfranchised residents – especially Black women as data indicates that this group faces the largest gaps in wages/earnings as well as the greatest barriers to accessing capital.

Eligibility

Funding will be awarded to 501(c)(3)s or others with a fiscal agent.

Funding will be awarded to organizations (or programs) that serve in one of our eight counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana: Butler, Clermont, Hamilton or Warren in Ohio; Boone, Campbell or Kenton in Kentucky; and Dearborn County in Indiana.

Priority will be given to efforts that advance economic mobility of low-income residents, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (with a special emphasis on Black women)

We also prioritize projects that have both public and private stakeholder involvement, broad community support, and take an asset-based approach to programs/initiatives.

What We Fund

This funding opportunity was influenced by the voices of many stakeholders who helped shape our Community Leadership Framework, which pushes us to get closer to those most affected by issues and to invest in community-driven solutions.

We are interested in funding organizations, efforts, and initiatives that have a proven track record and that can make the case for how their work advances economic mobility in the following areas:

- Creation, growth, and expanded access to quality jobs
- Job training and mentorship for low-income residents, Black and indigenous people and people of color
- Community-based programs that build wealth for low-income and/or BIPOC residents and neighborhoods
- Financial and business coaching and services that increase participation in the economic sector by low-income and BIPOC residents
- Loans and other investment tools that increase access to capital for historically marginalized entrepreneurs

How to Apply

GCF staff work closely with a diverse group of community partners to initiate and support projects that advance our priorities and goals listed above. If you think your project or organization might be a fit for our Economic Mobility program, we encourage you to submit your idea through our [online inquiry form](#).

Following the submission of this form, a foundation staff member will contact you within 30 days to provide instructions on next steps. If you do not receive a response within 30 days, please contact werisetgether@gcfdn.org

Funding Decisions and Terms of Grant

Applications are accepted year-round (or on a rolling basis), by invitation only. Depending on the grant or project, we may ask to schedule a phone call, meeting, or site visit as part of the review process. Funding decisions will be made within 90 days of grant submission. Grantees will be required to submit a final report 60 days after the conclusion of the grant period.

Further Assistance

Clarifications on the guidelines can be directed to Adison Nelson, Director of Community Strategies at adison.nelson@gcfdn.org or (513) 768-6108.

If you have technical questions about the application process or the status of your inquiry or request, please contact Hannah Hilditch, Community Strategies Coordinator at hannah.hilditch@gcfdn.org