



## **SAFE AND CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD FUND GUIDELINES AND GRANTMAKING PROCESS**

The purpose of the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund is 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.

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the City of Cincinnati is investing an additional \$500,000 in the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund with the ongoing annual investment of \$50,000 (*Safe & Clean Grant*) will continue as usual during this period. As of October 2023, the Safe and Clean Accelerate Neighborhood Fund and original Safe and Clean Grant funding sources have been combined to reduce confusion and provide more opportunities for all organizations to apply without restrictions. **The grant is reimbursable, meaning that grantees must first make purchases of goods & services before submitting receipts for reimbursement from the Safe & Clean Neighborhood Fund.**

### **Goals of the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund**

There are three goals for the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund:

- To provide financial support for one-time costs (**not ongoing operating expenses**) for neighborhood-led initiatives to improve quality of life within the City's neighborhoods
- To support and encourage community-based and community-initiated projects
- To improve safety, eliminate blight, and improve livability in the City's neighborhoods

### **Eligibility and Criteria**

Grant applications will be accepted from a wide variety of community groups and organizations including community councils, neighborhood business district organizations, Citizen on Patrol organizations, Community Problem-Oriented Policing (CPOP) teams and other recognized community organizations such as neighborhood improvement groups, block watch groups, etc. Collaboration between various groups and organizations is strongly encouraged.

Funding is awarded for one-time costs associated with projects that improve the safety and livability of a community. **Certain expenses are not allowable, including, but not limited to: food and beverages, entertainment, t-shirts and other clothing, and personnel costs.**

Generally, law enforcement equipment such as drones, speed radars, license plate readers, shot spotters, public cameras, etc. is **not eligible** for Safe & Clean funding. Technologies such as these may interfere with the work of the Cincinnati Police Department. If a request is deemed eligible and is funded, equipment must be wholly owned, managed, and maintained by the grantee. If part of a Safe & Clean grant, private security cameras should be registered at: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/online-camera-registration/>.

Projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes (i.e. changes in the conditions of safety, cleanliness, and livability) as a result of having completed the funded project/program. Grant applications must provide information according to four key selection criteria:

- Severity of the Problem or Condition
- Leverage of Resources (financial, volunteers, etc.)
- Effectiveness of the Proposed Response (including measurable outcomes)
- Partnership/Collaboration

Strengths in the above four criteria will enhance the competitiveness of any proposal. Other guidelines include:

- All projects/programs receiving grants must be implemented within the City of Cincinnati limits.
- Projects/programs must demonstrate a commitment to the [S.A.R.A. problem-solving framework](#) during planning and execution.
- All projects/programs must be initiated in the program year and demonstrate measurable impact within one year from receipt of funds.
- All prospective applicants must meet with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful before applying.
  - Please contact [Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org](mailto:Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org) to discuss your project.

GUIDELINES	SAFE & CLEAN	SAFE AND CLEAN ACCELERATE	UPDATED SAFE AND CLEAN
Grant awards up to \$10,000	✓		
Bi-annual deadlines May & September	✓		
Cash, in-kind and or volunteer match required	✓		
Minimum Grant Award \$1,000 with no maximum award amount		✓	
Priority focus in Cincinnati's "Top 10" neighborhoods experiencing gun violence		✓	✓
Minimum Grant Award of \$500 with no maximum award			✓
Grant deadline: January, May, September			✓

**Additional Guidelines for the *Safe & Clean Grant*:**

- Projects/programs must demonstrate a focus on “safe” and “clean” which together promote neighborhood livability.
- Projects/programs must demonstrate a specific community need for improvement of public safety including but not limited to violent crime reduction, pedestrian safety, elimination of blight or public nuisance conditions.
- While not required, projects/programs requesting funds can show evidence of matching funds from the community. This can take the form of volunteer labor, donated materials or professional services, and/or cash.
- While not required, priority focus will be given to projects in one of the City of Cincinnati's “top-ten” neighborhoods for statistical shooting crimes. As of 2022, these neighborhoods are: West End, Over-the-Rhine, Walnut Hills, Avondale, East Price Hill, Westwood, Winton Hills, Evanston, West Price Hill, and Bond Hill.
- Applicant organizations with an operating budget of \$1,000,000.00 or less shall receive a competitive priority through the Fund application process.
- Minimum grant award of \$500 with no maximum award.
  - Average granted amount per project funded in FY 2022-2023 is \$17,590.54.

### **Number and Amount of Grants**

Through the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund, the City of Cincinnati will disperse up to \$550,000 each year until the funds are depleted. Each application is evaluated on its own merit by a joint citizen-administration committee, which then makes its decision.

### **Grantmaking Process**

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will convene a six-member Fund Advisory Committee to review grant applications and make recommendations for funding. Composition of the Fund Advisory Committee will be as follows:

- One representative from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful; this representative will also serve as the Fund Advisory Committee's convener (**non-voting**)
- One representative from Community Development and Planning
- One representative from the Police Department
- One representative from the City Manager's office (ex officio member)
- One representative from Public Services
- One member from the private sector (representing a broad cross-section of the community) selected by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Nominees will serve on the Fund Advisory Committee for one year. In the case of resignation or removal of a representative, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will replace the representative in time to participate in the upcoming round of application reviews and recommendations.

### **To Apply**

Grant applications are now accessed via Submittable, and applicants will need to create a Submittable profile in order to apply. Most grant communications and documentation will be conducted through the Submittable platform.

You are required to meet with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful prior to your grant submission. Applications must be electronically submitted by 11:59pm on or before the appropriate due date. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for that round.

### **Application and Disbursement**

The Fund Advisory Committee may review applications from citizen and community groups 3 times per year and make decisions for disbursement. Safe and Clean Neighborhood Funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis, so depending on the volume of grant applications received, funds may be depleted towards the end of the fiscal year (June 30). To find out about the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund's status, visit

<https://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/programs/safe-and-clean/> or email [Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org](mailto:Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org).

**REMINDER: You are required to meet with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful prior to submitting your grant application.**

**Provided are key application and disbursement dates:**

**Grant dollars will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis from submitted invoices. Invoices may only be submitted for materials/services within the approved grant.**

**A final report is due at the end of the project. Failure to submit a final report will result in ineligibility to receive future Safe and Clean Neighborhood funds.**

TIMELINE	IMPORTANT DATES		
Safe and Clean Grant Application Deadline	2nd Friday in January	2nd Friday in May	2nd Friday in September
Grant Award Notification	Within 30 days of application deadline		
Final Report	At Project Completion, within 12 months of award		



## Grant Application Writing Resources:

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, need further assistance or accommodations. I am willing to review your drafted proposal and give feedback before submission deadlines. Please send feedback/application review requests no later than 5 days before the application deadline. Please send questions to Ty Wesselkamper:

[ty@keopcincinnatibeautiful.org](mailto:ty@keopcincinnatibeautiful.org)

- [UC Grant writing](#) - online classes via ED2go
- [Cincinnati State](#) also offers online courses via ED2go
- [Cincinnati Public Library: Free Resources/Classes/Workshops](#)
- [-Grammarly](#) - Free AI proof reading application
- - LinkedIn Grant Writing Webinars
- [City of Cincinnati- OPDA\(office of performance and data analytics\)](#) - Free for public, Cincy Insights is also a good tool via ODP.
- [University of Cincinnati Grant Writing Resources](#)- Ebooks, Web Resources