



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 and increase livability through local-level problem-solving approaches and projects.

In Fiscal Year 2024--2025, 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. **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 support and encourage youth-led, community-based, and community-initiated projects
- To support projects that harness the power of young people to create lasting, positive changes in their communities.
- To provide financial support for one-time costs (**not ongoing operating expenses**) for neighborhood-led initiatives to improve the quality of life within the City's neighborhoods.

Priority Focuses for September 2024's Grant Cycle

- **Engage Youth Leaders:** Projects should be led by or actively involve young people who are passionate about improving their neighborhoods.
- **Promote Physical Changes:** Focus on transforming the physical environment, whether it's through litter pick-up, renovations to shared spaces, or creative enhancements to buildings in their area.
- **Implement Crime Prevention Principles:** Utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies to reduce crime and increase community safety.
- **Enhance Community Ownership:** Initiatives should aim to beautify public spaces, fostering a sense of pride and ownership among residents.

Eligibility and Criteria

Grant applications will be accepted from a wide variety of community groups and organizations including youth leadership councils, youth advisory councils, 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(ongoing payroll, overhead costs, utilities). Contracted services(ex. Mural artist) and stipends are eligible for reimbursement.**

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 that may include other City Departments such as the Department of Transportation Engineering(DOTE) must consult that City department before applying for funding and notify Ty before submitting your application.

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

- The 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 to discuss your project at least 10 days before the deadline to be eligible.

Additional Guidelines for the Safe & Clean Grant

- Organizations applying for funding must be in operation for 6 months or more. 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, and 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 2023, they are West End, OTR, Westwood, Roselawn, East Price Hill, Avondale, Winton Hills, CBD/Riverfront, West Price Hill, Bond Hill, and CUF.
- 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 \$1000 with no maximum award.
- Average amount per project funded so far in FY 2023-2024- \$20,833.33

Number and Amount of Grants

Through the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund, the City of Cincinnati will disperse up to \$500,000 each year until the funds are depleted. Each application is evaluated on its 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. The 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

In the case of the 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 to apply. Most grant communications and documentation will be conducted through the Submittable platform. Please remember to scroll down to the bottom of the page on Submittable and hit “Save” to save your progress, it can be resumed at any time before the deadline.

You are required to meet with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful before your grant submission. Please meet with Ty at least 10 days before the deadline to be eligible. Applications must be electronically submitted by 11:59 pm on or before the appropriate due date. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for that round. Applications that are missing the budget worksheet will not be considered for funding.

Application assistance is available, please contact Ty to learn more or visit our [website](#) to view grant writing resources.

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 learn more about the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund’s status, visit <https://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/programs/safe-and-clean/> or email Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org

REMINDER: You are required to meet with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful before submitting your grant application 10 days before the deadline.

Provided are key applications and dates:

Grant deadlines will be the second Friday of January, May, and September

Grant Award Notification: 30 days after the deadline via Submittable portal/email provided on the application

Grant dollars will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis from submitted invoices. Invoices may only be submitted for materials/services within the approved grant. Turnaround time for receiving reimbursements via check is 4-5 weeks(can be picked up or mailed).

A midway report is due halfway through project completion or no later than 7 months after the term starts. A final report is due at the end of the project, both the midway and final reports will need photos to show the progress and impact. **Failure to submit a midway report and or a final report will result in ineligibility to receive future Safe and Clean Neighborhood funds.**