



# 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 2023-2024, the City of Cincinnati is investing in the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund (*Safe & Clean Accelerate Grant*). The ongoing annual investment of \$50,000 (*Safe & Clean Grant*) will continue as usual during this period.

## **Safe & Clean Grant and Safe & Clean Accelerate Grant At-a-Glance**

### **SAFE AND CLEAN GRANT**

- \$50,000 distributed annually since 2007
- Grant awards up to \$10,000
- Bi-annual deadlines in September & March
- Cash, in-kind and/or volunteer match required

### **SAFE AND CLEAN ACCELERATE GRANT**

- Additional \$500,000 to distribute by 2024
- Minimum grant award \$1,000 with no maximum award
- Quarterly deadlines in June, September, December, and March
- Cash, in-kind, and/or volunteer match NOT required
- Priority focus in Cincinnati’s “top-ten” neighborhoods experiencing gun violence

\*Please review full guidelines for the *Safe & Clean Grant* and *Safe & Clean Accelerate Grant* before applying.

## **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, personnel costs and stipends.

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 and/or attend any Safe & Clean workshops offered by KCB before applying.
  - Please contact [katie@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org](mailto:katie@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org) **Additional Guidelines for the Safe & Clean Grant:**
  - Projects/programs must demonstrate a focus on “safe” and “clean” which together promote neighborhood livability.

- Projects/programs requesting funds must show evidence of matching funds from the community. This can take the form of volunteer labor, donated materials or professional services, and/or cash.
- Maximum grant request of \$10,000.

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

- 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.
- Applicant organization should be in operation for at least 6 months before applying
- 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. In 2022, these neighborhoods are: West End, Westwood, Over-the-Rhine, Walnut Hills, Winton Hills, North Avondale, Avondale, East Price Hill, West Price Hill, and Roselawn.
- 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 request of \$1,000.

**Number and Amount of Grants**

Through the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund, the City of Cincinnati will disperse up to \$50,000 each year (*Safe & Clean Grants*) plus TBD amount (*Safe & Clean Accelerate Grants*) 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
- 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**

You are required to meet with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful prior to your grant submission. Applications must be electronically submitted by 5:00 PM on or before the appropriate due date. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for that round. We are no longer accepting hardcopy applications. You must submit your application electronically using our online application form. Microsoft Excel is needed to apply. If you do not have access to this program, email Katie at [Katie@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org](mailto:Katie@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org).

**Application and Disbursement**

The Fund Advisory Committee may review applications from citizen and community groups four times per year (for *Safe & Clean Accelerate Grant*; twice per year for *Safe & Clean Grant*) and make decisions for disbursement. For each of the September and March grant cycles, applicants may submit one proposal and be considered for either a *Safe & Clean Grant* or *Safe & Clean Accelerate Grant*, as long as eligibility requirements are met. 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 after the first round of applicants. To find out about the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund’s status, visit [www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/resources](http://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/resources) or email [ania@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org](mailto:ania@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 for 2022-2023**

ACTIVITY	IMPORTANT DATES			
Safe & Clean 1.0 Application Deadline	March 3, 2023		Sept. 1, 2023	
Safe & Clean 2.0 Application Deadline		June 2, 2023		Dec. 1, 2023
Grants Funded	Within 30 Days of Application Deadline			
Final Report Due	At Project Completion, Within 12 Months of Award			

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.**