

Request for Proposals

Grants for programs and interventions serving Cleveland residents that address the root causes of violence.

<p>ISSUED October 4, 2023</p>	<p>APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 15, 2023 The application <i>will open</i> October 9, 2023</p>	<p>FUNDING PERIOD: December 2023 – December 2024</p>
<p>PURPOSE AND RATIONALE</p>	<p>The Neighborhood Safety Fund (NSF) provides grants for community-driven, evidence-informed programming serving Cleveland residents that address the root causes of violence. This long-term fund was created in June 2023 via Cleveland City Council Ordinance 486-2023 and was seeded with a \$10 million investment from the City. The City Council approved the NSF as a donor-advised fund of the Cleveland Foundation, which will allow it to exist in perpetuity investing in evidence-based interventions and solutions to promote safety across the City of Cleveland.</p> <p>The Neighborhood Safety Fund is currently guided by a nine-person advisory committee including representation from Cleveland City Council, Cleveland Administration, community safety experts, and community members impacted by community violence. Through a public Request for Proposals (RFP) process, this group recommends grant funding to nonprofits and/or government agencies working to enhance the safety of all Clevelanders. The Cleveland Foundation’s role is to establish, manage, and implement the NSF.</p> <p>The Neighborhood Safety Fund will make annual grants, recommended by its Advisory Committee, to support nonprofit organizations and/or government entities addressing safety in the City of Cleveland. The fall/winter of 2023 will mark the first round of grants from the NSF.</p> <p>While we understand that the root causes of violence include but are not limited to systematic issues of disinvestment, racism, poverty, a lack of employment and livable wages, unmet mental health support and services, and unaddressed forms of racialized trauma, we also need to improve the coordination of current interventions, increase accountability, and address duplication and gaps in services. Therefore, the NSF will make grants that are aligned with the City’s violence prevention strategic plan to address the root causes of and effects of violence, and will provide support for areas including but not limited to gender-based violence; mental health, employment and job readiness; education; evidence-informed and community-centered violence interruption strategies; reentry resources for residents, their families, and loved ones; youth development and out-of-school-time enrichment opportunities; survivors of violence; and built environment including the arts, and culturally affirming and community building approaches to healing.</p> <p>This fund will also focus on investments that include but are not limited to the coordination of current services; examination of the violence-prevention ecosystem for areas of improvement; and promotion of evidence-based interventions. Additionally, grants seek to strengthen and build the capacity of small and medium community-based organizations focused on the intervention and prevention of neighborhood and school-based violence.</p>	
<p>ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD INFORMATION</p>	<p>The NSF will award grants to local organizations working to intervene and prevent community violence. Funds can support infrastructure and organizational sustainability and grow the capacity to deliver services and innovative culturally relevant programming.</p> <p>Applicant organizations may operate in various community violence intervention and prevention service areas. Strong proposals will be collaborative, including but not limited to faith-based, workforce, and school partners, and provide support in the following areas: mentoring, high school/young adult intervention, K-8 prevention, safe passages, and community convenings.</p> <p>Grants will be made to organizations holding 501(c)3 tax-exempt status or local government entities. Organizations that do not currently have 501(c)3 tax-exempt status are eligible to apply in partnership with a</p>	

tax-exempt organization serving as a fiscal sponsor. A completed Memorandum of Understanding will be required if you are applying with a fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor must be the organization applying.

Grants will, typically, range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 but the Advisory Committee retains the ability to make grants outside this range. The Committee will not consider multi-year funding at this time.

The Cleveland Foundation will host a Technical Assistance Session on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. This session will be recorded and available on the Cleveland Foundation website, including an overview of the RFP and the Grants Gateway. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

We encourage you to log in a few minutes early to ensure you're connected on time. While participation in the Zoom call is not required, it is encouraged for all organizations considering responding to this RFP as it will be the only opportunity to ask questions directly to staff. A summary of the questions and answers from the conference call will be posted on the Cleveland Foundation RFP page as well as added as an addendum to the RFP in the e-supplier portal.

APPLICATION AND EVALUATION INFORMATION

Applications must be submitted online by Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

Hard-copy applications will not be accepted.

To apply:

1. Visit the [Grants Gateway](#)
2. If you do not have login information, click on Register Link on that page.
3. Login to the portal and establish or update your organization profile.
4. Scroll down to find the Neighborhood Safety Fund application.
5. Complete the online application. Questions you will find in the application include:

Application Preview. Bold text represents all online application questions to expect.

- **Project Title**
- **Requested Amount:**
- **Total Project Budget:**
- **How Long will it take to complete the program as described:** 6 months (Project will conclude by July 2024) or 12 months (Project will conclude by December 2024)
- **Are you applying as a Fiscal Sponsor for an organization, partnership or project? If yes, you will be responsible for all financial management and reporting.**
 - **As a Fiscal Sponsor, what organization, partnership or program are you applying for? A letter signed by both parties will need to be uploaded under Fiscal Sponsor MOU.** The Cleveland Foundation will provide a template for an MOU upon request.
- **Has your organization or project received funding from The City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Foundation, and/or MyCom in 2022 and/or 2023 for violence prevention or neighborhood safety-related work?**
 - **If yes – Please provide a brief update on your project/program that was funded.** Only required for those that were previously funded.
- **Provide a brief history of how you have addressed violence prevention and promoted safety (If you are a Fiscal Sponsor this should reflect the organization or project you are sponsoring)**
 - **If this is a new program, briefly describe your rationale for launching this violence intervention program. How did you determine a need for this program or service? Did this rise from a specific community need?**
- **Identify which priority area your project or program will address:**
Available Options: Mentoring (includes outreach and in-reach services) / High School/Young Adult Intervention (OST programming, workforce, etc.) / K-8 Prevention / Safe Passages / Community Convenings / Victim/Survivor Support / Re-Entry / Mental Health/Wellness / Other (Explain) – spaced provided.

Project / Program Description: Answers should be brief and typically no more than 750 characters for each response.

- What specific safety or violence prevention need, or challenge will the grant address?
- What impact will this grant have on that need or challenge?
- How does your organization plan to address this need or challenge over the short and long term?
- How does your organization plan to sustain the new capacity or programming funded by this grant? Please be reminded that, at this time, the Advisory Committee will not consider multi-year grants.
- Collaboration: Who are your collaborators for this work? How are you working with other organizations? What resident buy-in have you secured or how will residents be engaged?
- Budget Narrative: What will the money pay for (equipment, services, salaries, etc.)?
- Additional funding secured or requested.
- Optional: Is there any other information you can provide to help the committee better understand your request and/or the unique needs of the community that this request will serve?

Demographic Section

- **Racial makeup of the leadership staff** (in percentages). If using a Fiscal Sponsor, this should reflect the project or program's leadership.
- **Racial makeup of the population served by the project or program** (in percentages)
- **Identify the Primary City of Cleveland neighborhood** being served.
- **Optional – Is there a secondary neighborhood?**
- **Optional – Is there a primary City of Cleveland Ward** being served?
- **Optional – Is there a secondary City of Cleveland Ward** being served:
- **Optional – Provide additional details about the geographic reach of your project or program.**

Upload Attachments, which include:

- **Board list** with affiliations if applicable.
- **Program/Project Leadership** – This can be an organizational chart or a document briefly describing the key staff leading the effort.
- **Financial document** (for example and audit, balance sheet or IRS 990) - For Fiscal Sponsor if applicable
- **Fiscal Sponsor Memorandum of Understanding** (if applicable)

QUESTIONS?

For technical questions, contact Grants Management, 216-615-7254, GrantsMgmt@clevefdn.org
For program-based questions, contact Darlene Toney, at dtoney@clevefdn.org