

Request for Proposals

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

<p>ISSUED April 2024</p>	<p>APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 10, 2024 The application will open April 24, 2024</p>	<p>FUNDING PERIOD: Beginning June, July or August 2024</p>
<p>PURPOSE AND RATIONALE</p>	<p>The Cleveland Neighborhood Safety Fund (CNSF) 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 that includes representation from Cleveland City Council, Cleveland Administration, community leaders, 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>This Request for Proposal (RFP) aims to appropriate up to \$1M to community violence intervention and prevention partners (CVIP) focused on the summer months of June, July, and August 2024 leading into the school year. Proposals should support organizational capacity building (additional staff, program expansion, increased outreach, etc.) for programs and/or services in targeted neighborhoods working with the targeted populations. Strong proposals identify "preventative" human service supports (mental health, income, housing, workforce development, etc.).</p> <p>The CNSF is not accepting requests for general operating, new programs or services, or capital requests for the Spring of 2024.</p> <p>Scope of Services and Objectives</p> <p>The CNSF is taking a data-driven approach to implementing community-centered violence intervention and prevention strategies that create safe and healthy neighborhoods. Community approaches to violence intervention and prevention start with people at the center of serious violence and extend outwards to their loved ones and the broader community. The CNSF aims to build the capacity of organizations and bring together a network of community providers and system partners to support people as they move toward safety, healing, and growth. The network relies on skilled workers with a personal understanding of trauma, who meet people where they are and form strong relationships. It is also a mutual commitment from partners of all sizes to engage in a violence prevention ecosystem that honors the interdependency of interventions and organizations to reduce violence. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in coordinated efforts with other funded agencies and key system partners, participate in training and technical assistance to build capacity and ensure fidelity to best practice service models, and participate in evaluation activities to inform continuous improvement and learning in the network.</p> <p>Program/Services Areas</p> <p>This RFP will provide funding for the programs/services listed below. You can only include one program/service in your proposal. An organization can submit multiple proposals if the proposals are substantially different for different programs/services. Substantially different is defined as having a different program design, staffing, program location, or priority population receiving services. In other words, applicants may not submit the same proposal for various programs/services.</p>	

Violence Interruption and Reduction Services

A. CNSF seeks programs that use credible messengers to prevent and reduce gun violence in the City of Cleveland, Ohio. We are looking for organizations with the deployment of proactive strategies aimed at fostering meaningful relationships in Cleveland neighborhoods experiencing the most violence, steering those involved in violence (or at a high risk of violence) into alternative positive choices, mediating neighborhood conflicts, and responding to neighborhood crises related to violence.

Informed by violent crime data, organizations may work weekends, evenings, and late nights up to 4 am based on seasons and needs. Organizations will be consulted and identify an up to 10-mile radius for their work within the targeted neighborhoods.

Organizations may be asked to coordinate and provide support outside of their targeted areas for crisis and unusual circumstances.

B. Youth Diversion/Proactive Mentoring

The purpose of diversion programs is to redirect youth from the justice system through programming, supervision, and support. This strategy area aims to help youth move away from deeper involvement in violence and the juvenile justice system through coordinated interventions. Funding is available for programs that divert youth from arrest or prosecution and help them transition back to school and community after confinement. Additionally, programs that target high-need youth with proactive mentoring approaches and provide a trained adult and/or peer mentor to build trusted bonds and set goals and objectives.

Programming may include:

- Coaching
- Case Management - Assessment, service planning, and follow-up
- Family Involvement
- Service Referral Incentives (i.e. stipends)
- Training
- Career Exploration
- Academic Support – tutoring, academic recovery
- Substance use education and training
- Workforce skills training
- Quality recreation and organized sports
- other (include space)

C. Violence Prevention

Programs that intervene directly with individuals experiencing violence in an effort to disrupt the cycle of violence. That includes large-scale programs already considered national models and smaller grassroots efforts with a proven track record of community impact.

Programming may include:

- Restorative Justice Services
- Mentorship and Relationship Building Services
- Wellness Services for Community Violence Intervention Staff
- Case Management – whole family
- Life Coaching
- Employment Services
- Victim/Perpetrator supports
- Substance use
- Out of School Time (leadership development, the Arts, STEM, sports)
- other (include space)

Target Program Participants:

The CNSF seeks to reach different target populations with CVI programming. Target populations include but are not limited to: (multiple selections)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members of a gang known to be actively involved in violence 2. Individuals with a history of criminal activity, including crimes against persons 3. Individuals who carry or have access to lethal weapons 4. Individuals with pending or prior arrest(s) for weapons offenses 5. Victims of a recent shooting or other serious violence 6. Individuals leaving or recently released from incarceration 7. Individuals with substance use or mental health concerns 8. Youth and families exposed to gun violence 9. People at risk of being victims or perpetrators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other (include space)
ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD INFORMATION	<p>Required Qualifications and Certifications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizations must have experience providing services in violence interruption and reduction, youth diversion and mentoring, or violence prevention programming. 2. Organizations shall have experience working in partnership and maintaining fundamental relationships with other nonprofits, resident leaders, faith leaders, youth, justice partners, city agencies, and/or neighborhood-based community institutions to meet the target population's service referral needs. 3. Programming located in the community served is preferred or accessibility is required through reliable transportation. 4. For participant referral services, organizations should demonstrate close links to health, mental health, vocational, educational, justice partners, and other social services, including but not limited to food, housing, and employment services. <p>Selected organizations will be part of a cross-sector network and will be asked to attend occasional virtual and/or in-person meetings, which may occur during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</p>
APPLICATION AND EVALUATION INFORMATION	<p>Applications must be submitted online by Friday, May 10, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Hard-copy applications will not be accepted.</p> <p>To apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:
	<p>Application Preview 2024 -- Bold text represents all online application questions to expect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Title • Requested Amount: • Total Project Budget: • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 can 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 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 summary of the work your organization is currently doing to address violence intervention and prevention. (If you are a fiscal sponsor this should reflect the organization you are sponsoring) • Provide a brief description of how long participants will be engaged in your program/service. Is there a completion timeline or date?

- Identify which priority area your project or program will address:
 - Violence Interruption and Reduction
 - Does your organization have the ability to provide services on evenings, weekends and late nights up to 4 am based on season and needs?
 - Youth Diversion/Proactive Mentoring
 - Identify which Diversion/Intervention priority category your project or program will address:
 - Options – Coaching, Case Management, Family Involvement, Service Referral Incentives (i.e. Stipends), Training, Career Exploration, Academic Support, Out-of-School Time, Other
 - Violence Prevention
 - Identify which Violence Prevention priority category your project or program will address:
 - Options – Restorative Justice Services, Mentoring and Relationship Building, Wellness Services for Community, Violence Intervention Staff, Case Management – Whole Family, Life Coaching Employment Services, Victim/perpetrator supports, Substance use, Other

Please Use this space if there is anything you think may help better describe the Priority Area your work will focus on.

- Identify which target neighborhood your work will focus:
- Options: Buckeye-Woodland; Central; Fairfax; Kinsman/Union Miles; Mt. Pleasant; North Broadway/Slavic Village
- Describe the territory your request covers. Please be specific about streets, blocks, housing estates, schools, etc.
- What age group best reflects the target age range of those you plan to serve?
 - Options – 11 -17; 18-25; 26-33; Over 33
 - Provide additional information about the age range(s) served by this project/program:

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

- How will a grant support your capacity needs in increasing or promoting neighborhood safety over the next 6 - 12 months?
- What impact will this grant have on the need or challenge?
- How does your organization plan to sustain the capacity or programming funded by this grant? Please be reminded that, at this time, the Advisory Committee will not consider multi-year grants.
- Regarding service referrals for the target populations, describe partnerships with other nonprofits, resident leaders, faith leaders, youth, justice partners, city agencies and or neighborhood-based community institutions to provide wrap around services.
- Describe the referral services and resources provided by partner organizations. Organizations should demonstrate close links to health, mental health, vocational, educational, justice partners and other social services including but not limited to food, housing, and employment services.
- Budget Narrative: What will the money pay for (equipment, services, salaries, etc.)?
- List additional funding secured or requested.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <p>Demographic Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) Describe the target population this program or project aims to serve (race, class, gender, ethnicity, age, language, ability, or type of disability). <p>Upload Attachments, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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?	<p>For technical questions, contact Grants Management GrantsMgmt@clevefdn.org For program-based questions, contact Darlene Toney, at dtoney@clevefdn.org</p>