

City of Cincinnati Human Services Fund

FY26/27 HSAC Recommendations

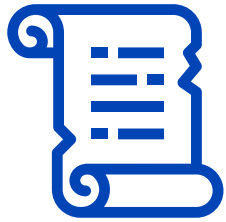
June 3, 2025



Background

Human Services Fund

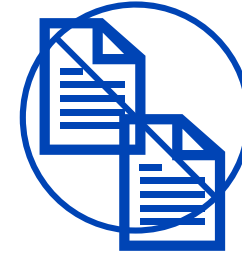
Overview



Established in 1981 to support programs and initiatives that are important to the city's health and vitality.



The intent of the Cincinnati Human Services Fund (HSF) is to leverage, develop, and scale proven strategies to accelerate progress toward community goals.



Complements, but does not duplicate, other City activities and investments.

Most Recent City Ordinance: [0036-2025](#)

HSF Partners and Roles



City Council

- Created the fund
- Sets funding priorities
- Makes final funding determination



Human Services Advisory Committee

- Reviews proposals
- Makes funding recommendations to City Council
- Monitors programs



United Way of Greater Cincinnati

- Runs proposal process
- Facilitates HSAC with City of Cincinnati Administration
- Subcontracts with selected grantees and disburses funding
- Monitors programs
- Administers reporting



Grantees

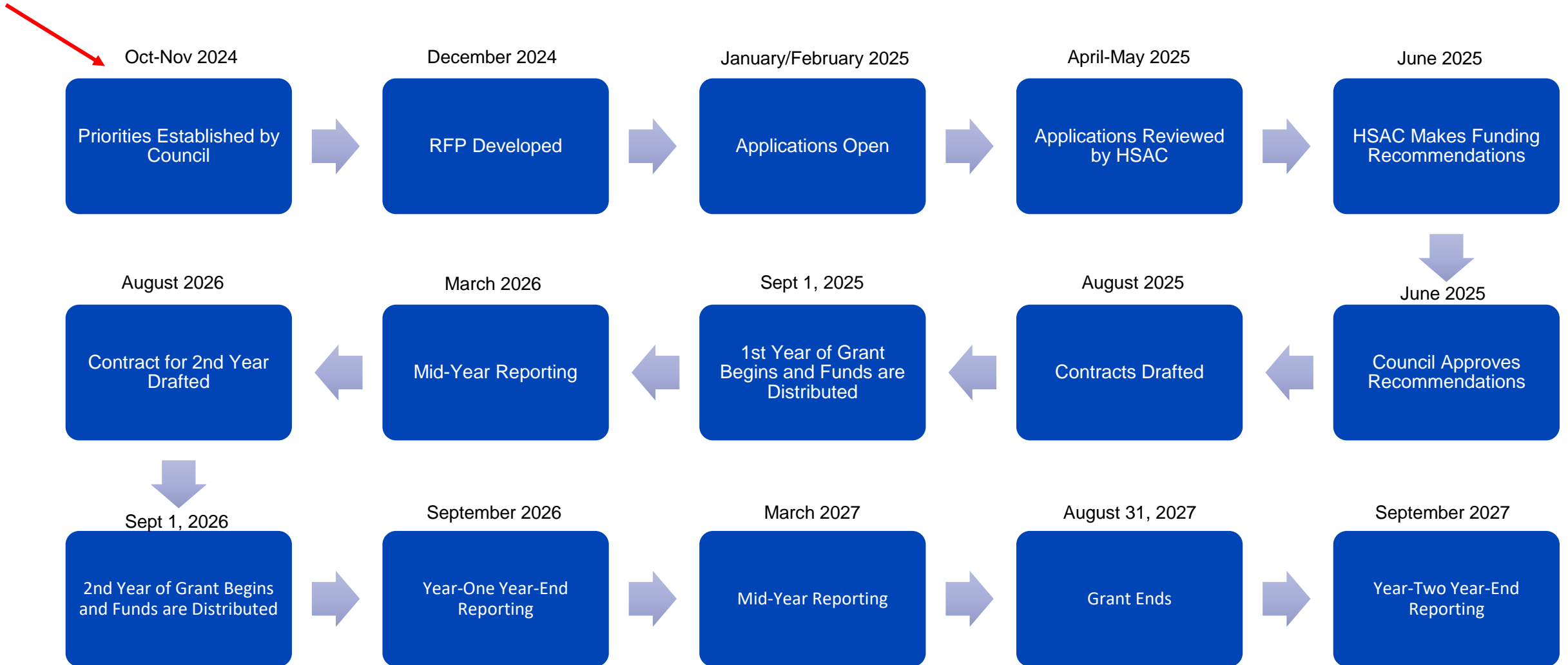
- Submit required reporting of applicable documentation (expenses, demographics of residents assisted, outcome measurement, etc.)
- Provide services to City of Cincinnati residents

Current HSAC Members

- Carla Belcher
- Courtney Morabito
- Dari Daniels
- Randi Burlew
- Shannon Nixson (Secretary)
- Kristin Goins
- La'Shaunda Ewing (Vice-Chair)
- Lauren Merten (Chair)
- Leslie Rich
- Venita Dell
- Mia Sears
- Calvin Davis
- Damon George
- Hammad Siddiqi
- Karlyn Wade-Richardson
- Antoinette Perkins
- Isaias Gamboa
- Shawnise Lewis
- Tammy West-Gilmore



Process and Grant Cycle Timeline



Evaluation Process

- Proposals were screened for initial eligibility by United Way of Greater Cincinnati.
- Human Services Advisory Committee reviewed and scored applications based on a scoring rubric developed from the RFP criteria individually and in small groups.
- Human Service Advisory Committee met to discuss the application review results.
- A final recommendation of applications to fund are provided by HSAC to City Council for the determination of funding.
- Council approves funding.

General Evaluation Standards

- Strong Alignment with Service Category Goals - Applications must clearly demonstrate how the program aligns with the specific goals and priorities of their chosen service category.
- Evidence-Based Program Design with Clear Outcomes - Evaluators seek well-defined success metrics, specific achievable outcomes connected to program activities, and robust systems for tracking impact and collecting data.
- Comprehensive Service Delivery to Priority Populations - Programs should demonstrate clear strategies for serving target populations with appropriate services and show evidence of cultural competency in their approach.
- Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration - Applications should showcase strong, sustainable partnerships with complementary organizations that enhance program effectiveness through coordinated support networks.

Evaluation - Scoring

Scoring Scale

For each section, reviewers used the following 4-point scoring scale:

- **4 points:** Exceptional - Exceeds expectations with comprehensive, highly detailed response
- **3 points:** Proficient - Meets all expectations with clear, thorough response
- **2 points:** Developing - Addresses basic expectations with opportunities for enhancement
- **1 point:** Emerging - Shows initial development with areas for growth
- **0 points:** Not Addressed - Information not provided

Scoring Thresholds: **Total points - 116**

- **Highly Recommended for Funding:** points 93-116 (80-100%)
- **Recommended for Funding:** points 81-92 (70-79%)
- **Development Recommended:** points 70-80 (60-69%)
- **Additional Development Needed:** Below points 69 (Below 60%)



Applicants have the opportunity to request their scores and request feedback



Funded Programs Overview

- Funded programs were **capped at \$200,000** across all three categories. While a cap was used, there is a notable shift toward higher funding amounts per application with some applications receiving significantly larger grants.
- To ensure program sustainability grants were additionally **capped at 50% of an organization's budget**.
- **The average award amount increased by \$33,498.74, representing a 46.6% increase from FY24 to FY26.** This is a substantial growth in the average funding per successful application.

Priorities:

(set by City Council)

- 1. Comprehensive Workforce Development**
- 2. Youth Gun Violence Prevention & Reduction**
- 3. Supporting, Securing, and Stabilizing Housing for High-Risk Populations**

Comprehensive Workforce Development

Priorities and Goals of Funding

The City seeks to address critical workforce development needs by breaking down systemic barriers that prevent marginalized populations from accessing and retaining quality employment opportunities combined with the creation of sustainable pathways to employment through comprehensive support services, coaching/mentoring, skills development, and strong employer partnerships.



Place special emphasis on working with **target populations** that experience elevated barriers to employment.



Provide **wrap around barrier removal and coaching services** that address a comprehensive continuum of issues such as housing stability, childcare, transportation, financial management, soft skill development, and mental health supports.



Assist job seekers in **obtaining a GED, credential, or industry-specific training programs** that align with high-demand fields; remedial education enhancement to increase the likelihood of obtaining higher paying jobs.



\$2,498,182 Total Investment

Application Statistics

Workforce Development	
Number of Organizations Applying	52
Number of Applications (Individual Programs)	57
Number of Applications (Individual Programs) Recommended for Funding	22
Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding	38.6%
Number of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New	10
Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New	45.5%

Workforce Development Recommendations

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Amount
BLOC Ministries	BLOC Ministries Workforce Development Program	\$ 120,000.00
Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio	Comprehensive Workforce Development Program for New Americans HSF	\$ 155,818.00
Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc. (CEO)	Employment Reentry Services for Formerly Incarcerated Cincinnati Residents HSF	\$ 155,000.00
Cincinnati Works	Cincinnati Works - Workforce Development	\$ 200,000.00
City Gospel Mission	JobsPlus HSF	\$ 80,800.00
Community Matters Cincinnati, Inc.	Education Forward	\$ 49,400.00
Co-op Cincy	Good Green Jobs Steering Committee	\$ 22,200.00
Corporation for Findlay Market	Findlay Learn	\$ 141,410.00
Dress for Success Cincinnati	Workforce Development Program HSF	\$ 100,000.00
Easterseals Redwood (Legal Name: Easter Seals TriState LLC)	ESRW Military & Veteran Services	\$ 75,000.00
Freestore Foodbank	LIFT the TriState HSF	\$ 200,000.00
Global Humanitarian Aid & Social Development, INC	"Pathways to Success: Refugee Youth Education, Workforce Development & Summer Leadership Program	\$ 76,204.00
Health Care Access Now	Health Care Access Now: Community Health Worker Certification Program	\$ 100,000.00
Learning Grove	NaviGo College and Career Connector at Withrow	\$ 80,000.00
Learning Grove	Learning Grove Institute: Retaining and Developing Teachers in Early Learning Programs	\$ 100,000.00
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati	Clearing Legal Hurdles to Employment HSF	\$ 80,000.00
Partnership for Innovation in Education	Accelerating Cincinnati's Youth Workforce Development and Access to In-Demand and High Paying Jobs	\$ 120,000.00
Per Scholas	Per Scholas Cincinnati IT Training HSF	\$ 102,350.00
The DAD Initiative, Inc	Project Grow	\$ 90,000.00
The Gaskins Foundation	TGF Youth STEM Workforce Development Program: Creating Safe Communities	\$ 50,000.00
The Literacy Lab	The Literacy Lab's Leading Men Fellowship in Cincinnati	\$ 200,000.00
Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio (ULGSO)	Impact: Adult Workforce Programs	\$ 200,000.00
22 PROGRAMS		\$2,498,182

Funded Application Strengths

- **Focus on High-Demand Fields of Employment:** applications demonstrate strong connections to regional workforce needs, focusing on sectors like manufacturing, healthcare, IT, and food service that have sustainable career pathways.
- **Inclusion of Wraparound Services:** programs offer comprehensive support networks that address multiple barriers simultaneously (transportation, mental health, emergency aid) with integrated childcare solutions, housing stability partnerships, and holistic family approaches that create sustainable support systems beyond program completion.
- **Collaborative Partnerships & Multi-Sector Collaboration:** many programs feature partnerships across sectors, including educational institutions, employers, social service organizations, and government agencies.
- **Data-Informed Approaches:** programs demonstrate robust data collection and analysis capabilities, tracking not just job placements but retention rates, wage progression, and skill development.

Funded Application Strengths

Innovative Employment Models: features programs that use creative approaches to workforce development beyond traditional job training, including:

- Transitional paid work with evidence-based recidivism reduction (CEO)
- Cooperative business ownership pathways in green construction (Co-op Cincy) **new**
- Neighborhood-based employment within walking distance (BLOC Ministries) **new**
- Food entrepreneurship incubation and business development (Corporation for Findlay Market)
- Industry-certified logistics training with employer partnerships (Freestore Foodbank) **new**

Person-Centered Support & Barrier Removal: highlights programs with comprehensive approaches to addressing complex barriers:

- Lifetime coaching with integrated financial wellness services (Cincinnati Works)
- Multilingual refugee services with self-sufficiency assessment (Catholic Charities)
- Recovery coaching for justice-involved individuals (City Gospel Mission)
- Family-centered approach with integrated childcare (Community Matters) **new**
- Veteran-specific employment services and trauma support (Easterseals Redwood)
- Legal barrier removal for employment access (Legal Aid Society)

Funded Application Strengths

Industry-Specific Career Pathways: showcases programs creating clear pathways into high-demand industries:

- Information technology training with industry-aligned metrics (Per Scholas)
- Healthcare workforce certification and community health careers (Health Care Access Now)
- Multiple sector-based pathways with stackable credentials (Urban League)
- Technology and advanced manufacturing pathways for youth (Partnership for Innovation) **new**
- Early childhood education career development and retention (Learning Grove Institute)
- High school to career navigation and exposure (Learning Grove NaviGo) **new**

Community-Connected & Culturally Responsive Approaches: features programs with deep roots in the communities they serve:

- Culturally-responsive immigrant youth employment programming (Global Humanitarian Aid) **new**
- Women-focused workforce development with professional styling (Dress for Success)
- Career exploration and workforce preparation for disconnected youth (The DAD Initiative) **new**
- Digital literacy and STEM pathways for underrepresented communities (The Gaskins Foundation) **new**
- Literacy development integrated with education career pathways (The Literacy Lab) **new**

Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction

Priorities and Goals of Funding

The City of Cincinnati has a vision that every Cincinnati neighborhood will be safe, thriving, and free from violence. The City seeks to address these challenges through strategic investment in data-driven, collaborative initiatives that can demonstrate measurable impact in reducing youth violence while building community resilience.

This RFP seeks proposals that align with Cincinnati's ["Achieving Change Together for Cincinnati"](#) framework.



Incorporate **Community and Place-Based Solutions**



Focus on **Key Neighborhoods:**

Over-The-Rhine, Avondale, West End, Winton Hills, Westwood, East Price Hill and Roselawn are the top neighborhoods of concern.



Reduce Accessibility of **Firearms to Youth**



Address **All Participants** in the Cycle of Violence and Their Support Systems



Provide **Economic and Social Stability**



\$2,498,182 Total Investment

City of Cincinnati ACT Plan



Pillar 1 - Thriving Neighborhoods: Organizations like [Santa Maria](#), [Save Our Youth Kings & Queens](#), [Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses](#), and [Urban League](#) directly implement place-based programming in Cincinnati's highest-violence neighborhoods, partnering with police districts, improving physical spaces, and building community capacity for problem-solving. Their work exemplifies the community investment and CPOP strategies that ACT identifies as essential for neighborhood transformation.

Pillar 2 - Reduced Accessibility of Firearms to Youth: While not directly removing guns from circulation, organizations like [Smart Cincy](#), [Cincinnati Music & Wellness Coalition](#), and [Cincinnati Black Theatre Company](#) provide the educational interventions and trauma-informed care that address root causes of youth firearm access. Their programming builds emotional regulation, conflict resolution skills, and positive alternatives that reduce the appeal of firearms for protection or status.

Pillar 3 - Improved Wellbeing: The mental health and family strengthening focus across organizations like [Children's Law Center](#), [Every Child Succeeds](#), [Cincinnati Children's Hospital](#), and [From Fatherless to Fearless](#) directly implements ACT's wellbeing pillar. These programs provide trauma-informed care, strengthen parent-child bonds, and connect families to essential services that build resilience against violence.

City of Cincinnati ACT Plan



Pillar 4 - Improved Youth Support: The extensive mentorship, after-school programming, and educational support provided by organizations like [Adopt A Class](#), [Cincinnati Youth Collaborative](#), [Cincinnati Works](#), [Peaslee](#), [Forever Kings](#), and [Never The Less Inc.](#) creates the comprehensive youth support system that ACT envisions. These programs provide structured alternatives during high-risk hours, connect youth to caring adults, and build skills for future success.

Pillar 5 - Evidence-based Policing Innovations: Organizations like [Urban League](#), [The Blue Line Foundation](#), and [Trazana A Staples Foundation](#) directly support ACT's policing innovation goals by implementing CPOP strategies, building police-community trust through programming like CITI Camp, and using data-driven approaches to target interventions. Their work strengthens the community-police partnerships essential for sustainable violence reduction.

Application Statistics

Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction	
Number of Organizations Applying	43
Number of Applications (Individual Programs)	45
Number of Applications (Individual Programs) Recommended for Funding	26
Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding	57.78%
Number of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New	14
Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New	53.85%

Gun Violence Prevention Recommendations

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Amount
Adopt A Class Foundation	Career and Life Skills Mentorship for Today's Students as Tomorrow's Leaders	\$ 136,800.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati	BGCGC - Graduate Education Program for Cincinnati Youth	\$ 85,000.00
Children's Law Center	Holistic Legal Services for Vulnerable Children, Teens, and Young Adults: Education, Employment, Housing, Safety, Justice	\$ 89,600.00
Cincinnati Black Theater Company	Youth Violence Prevention "I Will Live and Not Die"	\$ 90,000.00
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Joining Forces for Children	\$ 73,413.06
Cincinnati Music & Wellness Coalition	Group Empowerment Drumming & Parenting Skill-building for Gun Violence Prevention	\$ 103,500.00
Cincinnati Works	Cincinnati Works - Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction	\$ 200,000.00
Cincinnati Youth Collaborative	CYC Mentoring Pathways to Success	\$ 191,418.00
Every Child Succeeds	Every Child Succeeds Programming for City Residents	\$ 60,000.00
FAST dba Cincinnati Tennis Foundation	After School and Summer Programming	\$ 25,000.00
Forever Kings Inc.	Boys II Kings - Cincinnati Public Schools Middle School Program	\$ 85,000.00
Found Village	Path2Independence	\$ 150,000.00
From Fatherless to Fearless	B.R.I.D.G.E.	\$ 139,000.00
H.E.R. Holloman Enterprise Resources	Refocus	\$ 65,000.00
Learning Grove/Families Forward	FamiliesFORWARD - Victory Over Violence: Building Family Resiliency HSF	\$ 100,000.00
Never The Less Inc.	Never Again Program	\$ 50,000.00
Peaselee Neighborhood Center	Agents of Change & Alumni Program	\$ 40,000.00
Price Hill Will	Price Hill Will MYCincinnati	\$ 60,000.00
Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.	Youth Development Program	\$ 116,087.00
Save Our Youth Kings & Queens	SOYKQ	\$ 75,000.00
Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses	Findlay Street Neighborhood House	\$ 180,000.00
Smart Cincy, Inc.	Future Guard: Empowerment through Awareness	\$ 70,000.00
Sweet Sistah Splash	Sweet Sistah Splash - Hamilton County SNP	\$ 72,000.00
The Blue Line Foundation	Children In Trauma Intervention Camp	\$ 22,613.94
Trazana A Staples Foundation	Intergenerational Wellness Partners Youth Symposium	\$ 18,750.00
Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio (ULGSO)	Urban Champions Youth and Community Partnering Center Programming	\$ 200,000.00
26 PROGRAMS		\$2,498,182

Funded Application Strengths

- **Youth-Centered Engagement Strategies** - Programs consistently demonstrate innovative approaches to **meet youth where they are**, using mentorship, creative expression, and activities that resonate with their interests and experiences.
- **Trauma-Informed Interventions** - Most programs incorporate **trauma-responsive practices** that recognize and address the underlying experiences of violence exposure, with several featuring clinical partnerships and evidence-based healing approaches.
- **Family System Integration** - Strong emphasis on **engaging the entire family unit** rather than working with youth in isolation, recognizing that sustainable change requires supportive home environments.
- **Community-Embedded Services** - Programs show **deep connections to the specific neighborhoods** they serve, with staff often reflecting the community demographics and services delivered in accessible, familiar settings.

Funded Application Strengths

Innovative Youth Engagement: features programs that use creative approaches to directly engage youth, including:

- Mentorship programs (Adopt A Class, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative)
- Creative expression (Cincinnati Black Theatre Company, Price Hill Will)
- Career development (Boys & Girls Clubs, Sweet Sistah Splash)
- Sports and activities (FAST/Cincinnati Tennis Foundation) **new**
- Specialized youth populations (Forever Kings **new**, From Fatherless to Fearless **new**)


Trauma-Informed & Mental Health Approaches: highlights programs with strong mental health and trauma response components:

- Clinical partnerships (Cincinnati Children's Hospital)
- Trauma-specific interventions (H.E.R. Holloman **new**, Never The Less **new**)
- Support for highly traumatized populations (Found Village)
- Early intervention (Every Child Succeeds) **new**
- Building trust with authorities (Blue Line Foundation) **new**

Funded Application Strengths

Family & Community Support: showcases programs with strong family engagement and community connections:

- Multigenerational approaches (FamiliesFORWARD, Santa Maria)
- Economic stability focus (Cincinnati Works, Urban League)
- Community-embedded services (Save Our Youth Kings & Queens **new**, Seven Hills)
- Data-driven targeting (Smart Cincy) **new**



Supporting, Securing, and Stabilizing Housing for High- Risk Populations

Priorities and Goals of Funding

The City continues to experience a critical shortage of affordable housing options, particularly impacting low-income households and historically marginalized populations. This persistent gap between housing availability and community need has created substantial barriers for vulnerable residents attempting to secure and maintain stable housing within our neighborhoods.



Projects that **intervene along the continuum** of housing stability and homelessness.



Projects that **emphasize barrier removal services** for obstacles that contribute to recurring homelessness.



Projects that **mitigate the strain resulting from the Public Housing Authority's shortfall status** and the resulting unavailability of housing choice vouchers.



Projects that **engage and partner with housing providers** and emphasize partnering with the City on addressing building and health code violations issues with partner landlords.



Other housing resources such as: Housing navigation services and Housing advocacy services.



\$2,698,182 Total Investment

Application Statistics

Supporting, Securing, and Stabilizing Housing for High-Risk Populations	
Number of Organizations Applying	33
Number of Applications (Individual Programs)	39
Number of Applications (Individual Programs) Recommended for Funding	25
Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding	64.10%
Number of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New	11
Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New	44%

Housing Recommendations

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Amount
Jewish Family Service of the Cincinnati Area	Homeless Prevention & Housing Stability Program at Jewish Family Service	\$ 50,000.00
Momma's Place	A Place for Mom	\$ 75,000.00
Community Matters Cincinnati, Inc.	Opportunity Hub	\$ 87,000.00
Lighthouse Youth & Family Services	Lighthouse Collaborative for Homeless Youth HSF	\$ 200,000.00
YWCA Greater Cincinnati	Housing and Supportive Services (HSS)	\$ 145,512.00
Caracole, Inc.	Caracole, Inc. - TBRA Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless/Unstably Housed HIV+ Individuals/Families	\$ 90,000.00
Strategies to End Homelessness	Shelter Diversion	\$ 200,000.00
YWCA Greater Cincinnati	Domestic Violence Shelter HSF	\$ 200,000.00
Bethany House Services, Inc.	Bethany House Services Emergency Shelter HSF	\$ 200,000.00
Bethany House Services, Inc.	Shelter Diversion HSF	\$ 60,000.00
Bethany House Services, Inc.	BHS Post Shelter-AfterCare Programming	\$ 60,000.00
Freestore Foodbank	Stabilization Project HSF	\$ 175,107.00
Strategies to End Homelessness	Central Access Point (CAP)	\$ 50,000.00
Brighton Center, Inc.	Housing and Rental Counseling - HSF	\$ 57,171.00
Rosemary's Babies Co.	Holloway House Aid Program for teen moms and their babies	\$ 75,000.00
Cincinnati Public Schools	The Wrap at CPS Project Connect	\$ 147,250.00
Society of St Vincent DePaul Particular Council of Cinti	Homelessness Prevention Program HSF	\$ 200,000.00
Center for Respite Care, Inc.	Center for Respite Care, Inc. - Healthy and Housed	\$ 75,000.00
Cornerstone Renter Equity	Renter Equity	\$ 75,900.00
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati	Family Medical-Legal Partnerships: Child HeLP & M-HeLP	\$ 75,000.00
Tender Mercies, Inc.	Tender Mercies Permanent Supportive Housing	\$ 75,000.00
Cincinnati Union Bethel (Doing Business As: HER Cincinnati)	Anna Louise Inn HSF	\$ 75,000.00
Found House Interfaith Housing Network	Found House IHN's Emergency Shelter for Families	\$ 98,902.00
Generation Now	Wanda Way Homes	\$ 100,000.00
The First Step Home, Inc.	Recovery Housing for Women	\$ 51,340.00
25 PROGRAMS		\$2,698,182

Funded Application Strengths

- **Comprehensive Continuum Approach** - Programs consistently demonstrate a holistic understanding of housing stability, offering services across the prevention-intervention-stabilization continuum rather than isolated solutions.
- **Client-Centered Case Management** - Strong emphasis on individualized, relationship-based case management that addresses unique barriers to housing stability while empowering clients to set and achieve their own goals.
- **Strategic Landlord Partnerships** - Innovative approaches to developing and maintaining relationships with housing providers, creating pathways to housing even in a challenging rental market with limited affordable units.
- **Integration of Supportive Services** - Recognition that housing stability requires more than just shelter, with robust connections to mental health services, employment support, financial coaching, and other wraparound services.

Funded Application Strengths

Prevention & Diversion Strategies: features programs that intervene before homelessness occurs or immediately after housing loss, including:

- Targeted financial assistance for rent and utilities (St. Vincent DePaul **new**, Jewish Family Service)
- Mediation with landlords to prevent evictions (Brighton Center, Legal Aid Society)
- Housing stabilization for families at imminent risk (Bethany House, Strategies to End Homelessness **new**)
- Centralized screening and diversion services (Strategies - Central Access Point, Found House)
- Specialized prevention for vulnerable populations (Lighthouse Youth, Rosemary's Babies **new**)

Comprehensive Case Management: highlights programs with intensive, client-centered case management approaches:

- Housing-focused case management with follow-up support (Bethany House, Center for Respite Care **new**)
- Cross-system coordination for complex needs (Cincinnati Public Schools **new**, Caracole)
- Strengths-based, trauma-informed practices (YWCA, Tender Mercies)
- Long-term stabilization support (The First Step Home, HER Cincinnati)
- Navigation of multiple systems and benefits (Community Matters **new**, Freestore Foodbank **new**)

Funded Application Strengths

Landlord Engagement & Housing Navigation: showcases programs with strategic approaches to developing housing resources:

- Landlord recruitment and retention strategies (Bethany House, Lighthouse Youth)
- Housing search and placement assistance (Strategies to End Homelessness, Brighton Center **new**)
- Landlord-tenant mediation services (Community Matters **new**)
- Property maintenance partnerships (YWCA, GENERATION NOW **new**)
- Incentives and risk mitigation for landlords (Found House, St. Vincent DePaul **new**)

Population-Specific Interventions: features programs providing specialized services for specific vulnerable populations:

- Families with children (Bethany House, Found House)
- Survivors of domestic violence (YWCA, HER Cincinnati)
- Individuals with mental health/substance use disorders (The First Step Home, Tender Mercies)
- Youth and young adults (Lighthouse Youth, Rosemary's Babies **new**)
- Individuals living with HIV/AIDS (Caracole, Center for Respite Care **new**)

Funded Application Strengths

Trauma-Informed & Recovery-Oriented Care: highlights programs incorporating trauma-informed principles throughout service delivery:

- Survivor-centered shelter and housing (YWCA, HER Cincinnati)
- Recovery housing with integrated treatment (The First Step Home, GENERATION NOW **new**)
- Trauma-responsive staff training and practices (Tender Mercies, Bethany House)
- Mental health integration with housing services (Lighthouse Youth, Caracole)
- Healing-centered engagement for families (Found House, Society of St. Vincent DePaul **new**)

Service Category Recommendations

The Human Services Advisory Committee recommends 73 programs for funding at \$7.69 million dollars.

	Workforce Development	Gun Violence Prevention	Housing Stabilization	Total
Number of Agencies Recommended for Funding	21	26	21	68
Number of Programs Recommended for Funding	22	26	25	73
Amount of Funding Recommended	\$2,498,182	\$2,498,182	\$2,698,182	\$7,694,546.00

Application Trends Over Time

	FY 20	FY 22	FY 24	FY 26
Applications (Individual Programs) Received	68	68	112	141
Applications(Individual Programs) Funded	60 (88%)	60 (88%)	67 (61%)	73 (52%)
Number of Applications from New Agencies	unknown	unknown	59 (53%)	79 (56%)
Amount Allocated for all Service Categories	\$4,904,247	\$6,408,512	\$4,889,618	\$7,694,546
Median	\$43,139	\$95,573	\$70,000	\$89,600
Mean	\$81,737	\$106,808	\$71,906	\$105,404.74



Impact Award

Priorities and Goals of Funding

This Impact Award provides an opportunity to pursue an innovative, collaborative, bold strategy to address food insecurity as part of the City's overall gun violence prevention strategy that will promote thriving neighborhoods and improve physical and mental health for families.



Projects that prioritize community collaboration and include multiple organizations with one lead agency applicant.



Projects **MUST** benefit residents in three or more of the top 10 neighborhoods experiencing gun violence.

- OTR
- Avondale
- West End
- Winton Hills
- East Price Hill
- Westwood
- Roselawn
- West Price Hill
- Mt. Airy
- Walnut Hills



Projects in which the beneficiaries include 2 or more of populations experiencing high rates of food insecurity:

- Children in families of color
- Single parent/caregiver families
- Households with foreign born parents
- Families in which an adult has a disability
- People at high risk for experiencing social isolation



\$850,000 Total Investment

Priorities and Goals of Funding



Projects that can articulate how they can be sustained after this funding is over.



Also Include:

- Include a component of enrollment into SNAP or WIC for eligible participants.
- Include direct collaboration with (gun) violence prevention programs.
- Leverage partnerships and existing funds to implement, expand, and sustain the proposal.



\$850,000 Total Investment

Application Statistics

Impact Award		
Eligible Applications	6	
Number of Applications (Individual Programs) Recommended for Funding	1	

Impact Award Recommendation

The Human Services Advisory Committee recommends 1 program for funding at \$850,000 dollars.

Organization	Program Name	Funding Recommendation
Cincinnati Children's Hospital - System to Achieve Food Equity Network (SAFE) And partners (see next slide)	SAFE Network Hunger, Healing, and Hope: A Food System Approach to Community Safety	\$850,000

Impact Award Partners:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital	\$41,050
Closing the Health Gap	\$10,000
Findlay Market	\$42,250
Feed the Soul	\$115,000
Greater Cincinnati Resilience Coalition	\$40,000
Green Umbrella	\$20,000
Isaiah 55, Inc	\$190,000
La Soupe	\$210,000
Lord's Gym	\$85,000
Love in Action	\$20,000
Produce Rx	\$116,700
Urban Farming Initiative	\$130,000
Verge Monarch	\$12,000
Whole Again	\$90,000

This totals more than \$850,000 because the awardee will leverage other resources to increase the amount of funding to advance this project forward.

Impact Award Summary

Three community-led networks (SAFE, Community Safety Learning Collaborative, and Neighborhood Changemakers Network) are partnering to address the interconnected issues of food insecurity and gun violence in Cincinnati through upstream intervention strategies.

- **Neighborhood Hub Network:** The project will establish 8 community-designed and resident-led food and resource hubs with embedded urban farms in neighborhoods experiencing high rates of both food insecurity and gun violence, creating sustainable local infrastructure.
- **Targeted Population Support:** The initiative will coordinate specialized food and support services for three priority groups - firearm injury survivors, system-involved youth, and public-school students - while building broader community capacity.
- **Systems Change Approach:** Beyond direct service, the project aims to drive citywide policy advocacy, narrative change through media storytelling, and structural improvements like transit accessibility to create lasting systemic transformation.
- **Data-Driven Learning Network:** The collaboration uses continuous improvement science methodologies with publicly available dashboards tracking an ecosystem of metrics from meal gap reduction to gun violence incidents, ensuring transparency and evidence-based decision making.

Thank You!

