

**KEEP  
CINCINNATI  
BEAUTIFUL**



city of  
**CINCINNATI**



## **The City of Cincinnati's Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund**

(Updated June 2025)

**Ty Wesselkamper**

Safe and Clean Grant Coordinator

[Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org](mailto:Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org)

Safe and Clean funding is intended for projects that utilize crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) where improved beautification enhances community ownership and reduces violence. This funding is open for organizations prioritizing youth-led initiatives to promote positive physical changes in their neighborhoods.



## Priority focuses for FY24-25

- 1. Engage Youth Leaders:** Projects should be led by or actively involve young people who are passionate about improving their neighborhoods.
- 2. Promote Physical Changes:** Focus on transforming the physical environment by using CPTED strategies to reduce crime and increase community safety.
- 3. Focus on high-crime neighborhoods:** Projects should engage residents in OTR, Avondale, West End, Winton Hills, East Price Hill, Westwood, Roselawn, West Price Hill, Mt. Airy, Walnut Hills  
Top 10 Neighborhoods 2024 provided by CPD and Sr. Crime Analyst Dr. Jillian Desmond.



The City of Cincinnati's Safe and Clean Grant is funded through the City Manager's Office Human Services Department

Deanna White, Director of Human Services, Office of the City Manager



## Grantmaking Process

- Human Services Department funds \$500,000 annually since 2022.
- KCB's core contract provides \$50,000 since 2007.
- Three deadlines annually in January, May, and September
- Provides financial support for one-time costs for neighborhood-led initiatives to improve quality of life in Cincinnati.
- Application is based on S.A.R.A problem-solving framework(scan, analyze, response, assessment).
- Collaboration between groups, community leaders, and organizations is strongly encouraged.
- Youth stipends and transportation costs are reimbursable.

## **Grantmaking Process Cont.**

A six-member fund advisory committee reviews grant applications three times per year:

- KCB(non-voting): Ty Wesselkamper
- Community Development and Planning: Breanna White
- Cincinnati Police Department: Exec. Asst. Chief Maurice Robinson
- City Manager's Office: Kait Bell
- Public Services: Courtney Hauser
- Private sector(cross-section of community/community leader): Vice Chair of Board, Village Green Foundation and Community Engagement Specialist, Cincinnati Children's: Moshe Seid

## **Resources for applicants and community**

- We require all applicants to meet with the grant coordinator(Ty) before applying for Safe and Clean to discuss the project in detail.
- For each round of funding, we host a general information session(optional) with Q&A.
- In May 2025, in partnership with the CMO and CPD, we held additional training with Dr. Jillian Desmond and Lt. Col. Matthew Hammer on the SARA model and measurable outcomes for applicants.
- Ty offers grant writing assistance, peer reviews, and application feedback for all applicants.
- In FY24-25, 6/7 applicants not recommended for funding initially returned the following round and secured financing.





## FY24-25 Measurable Outcomes

- \$1,377,832.44 in grant requests
- 23 projects funded totaling \$476,720.33
- 22/23 are in the top neighborhoods with the highest gun violence
- 23/23 are led by youth or actively engage youth
- 22/23 use crime prevention through environmental design(CPED)
- **Engaged 961 volunteers totaling 8041 hours as of the end of May 2025 totaling \$269,293.09 in volunteer value.**
- **Cost-benefit: For every dollar the City has invested in Safe and Clean, the economic benefit is 3.2x**





## **Mt. Airy CURE \$21,000**

- Engaged Aiken High School's agriculture program students and staff(33 volunteers for 3 hours)= 99 hours
- Hosted 2 clean up events with community members, Aiken HS, and Duke Energy
- Installed 6 raised beds and a pumpkin patch
- 6 picnic tables were built
- Invasive removal
- Added improved lighting to commons
- Improved the ADA pathway
- This project activated an unused dumping site engaging 69 volunteers for 228 hours.



## Price Hill Safety CAT \$2,832.56

- In 11 weeks, 5 mentors and 11 youths removed 261 large bags of trash totaling 6,525 lbs from vacant lots and surrounding areas.
- Partnered with KCB's Education & Youth team at Rees E. Price Elementary to prep garden space
- Partnered with Price Hill Will at St. Lawrence Square in May of 2025.





- Youth received stipends and learned how to budget their earnings.
- 4 students opened bank accounts.
- 1 youth started his own landscaping company saving his earnings from the summer program.
- Youth learned landscaping skills and team building. The youth received mentoring and school supplies.
- All 11 youth are planning to return for the summer of 2025.



## Save Our Youth Kings and Queens \$30,000

- In January 2025, Save Our Youth Kings and Queens was granted funding for beautification in Winton Hills led by youth.
- "Youth are the primary drivers of the project. In addition to providing stipends for labor, we are inviting youth to decide which spaces are targeted, what types of beautification the sites will receive, and what the creative design might be. " - Save Our Youth Kings and Queens.



## Save Our Youth Kings and Queens cont.

Measurable outcome goals:

- Aim to engage 15 youths in service to clean areas in their neighborhoods with trash, and debris, and adding visual elements such as flowers.
- Aim to revitalize 10 major sites through liter pick up and landscaping.





## Future of Safe and Clean

- 3 upcoming deadlines for FY25-26 pending City budget approval
- **Potential 20.6% loss in funding by \$103,000**
- **Cost-benefit: For every dollar the City has invested in Safe and Clean, the economic benefit is 3.2x!**



Boys and Girls Club of GC participated in 2 clean ups with Fidelity and KCB, 41 teens totaling 82 hours of stewardship.