



Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

June 11th, 2026

FY27 Budget Adjustments

WE MOVE that the administration prepare an updated budget with the following adjustments:

Program/Project	Source	Amount
Free CRC Summer Camps during Summer 2027 ¹	FY27 Human Services Fund – Impact Award	\$450,000
Act for Cincy ²	FY27 Human Services Fund – Impact Award	\$355,070
Whitney Strong – Stop the Bleed ³	FY27 Human Services Fund – Impact Award	\$50,000
Boots on the Ground	City Manager’s Office – Operating	\$137,500
Safe and Clean	City Manager’s Office – Operating	\$137,500

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¹ In FY26/27 RFP for the Human Services Fund (HSF), Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction category, multiple “Priorities and Goal(s) of Funding” apply for these dollars: Incorporate Community and Place-Based Solutions, Address All Participants in the Cycle of Violence and Their Support Systems, Provide Economic and Social Stability. It is possible for it to apply to the additional goal of a Focus on Key Neighborhoods.

² Achieving Change Together (ACT) for Cincy is the City of Cincinnati’s Violence Reduction Blueprint. The success of non-police violence intervention are dependent on financial commitments from leadership and this funding would reflected real momentum for this policy portfolio. ACT for Cincy applies to all “Priorities and Goal(s) of Funding” for the Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction category.

³ During the FY26 Budget Process, Whitney Strong was not recommended for Human Service Funding. Since then, slowed their Stop the Bleed trainings. These training are pivotal for have active bystanders in address situations of gun violence and even saving lives. This applies to the following “Priorities and Goal(s) of Funding” from the FY26 /27 RFP for the HSF: Reduce Accessibility of Firearms to Youth.

STATEMENT

Our youngest residents are looking to see where local government will meet this moment, and too many families in our community are struggling to ensure the safety and well-being of their children due to limited resources. Nationwide, nearly 4.2 million children lack access to childcare, and almost half live in “childcare deserts.” At the same time, the challenge does not stop when school ends, summer presents an even greater gap. Only about 55% of children participate in structured summer programs, leaving roughly 24 million children without access to safe, enriching environments during the summer months. Cost remains the primary barrier, with 32% of parents reporting they could not enroll their child in desired summer programming due to affordability, and nearly half of parents wishing their children had more access than they currently do.

Summer camps, in particular, highlight this inequity. Only about 12% of American children attend summer camp, and participation skews toward higher-income families. As a result, nearly half of children miss out on structured summer opportunities, and more than 12 million children are not enrolled in any program at all. These gaps have real consequences, students can lose up to 2–3 months of learning over the summer, with the greatest impact on low-income families.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) helps bridge that gap by offering 10 weeks of summer camp across multiple recreation centers, expanding access for families citywide. However, at approximately \$2,100 per child, these programs remain out of reach for too many. We know that Black and brown families disproportionately face these financial pressures, and worrying about the safety of their children should not be an added burden. For that reason, **I propose that CRC provide more than 200 children with free access to summer camps next year, using a framework similar to the existing financial assistance model supported by the CRC Foundation.** Reducing even one major expense for working families is exactly where local government can and should step in, and this investment will ensure more young people are engaged in safe, enriching environments.

In addition, **I propose continued investment in ACT for Cincy, the City’s violence reduction framework.** This funding is critical to proactively engaging young people, strengthening neighborhood partnerships, and addressing the root causes of violence. By expanding outreach in communities most impacted by gun violence, we can better meet immediate needs while advancing long-term public safety outcomes.

Finally, **I propose support for Whitney Strong’s Stop the Bleed program,** an impactful partnership between a survivor-turned-advocate and the University of Cincinnati. This training equips residents to act as informed, capable bystanders in emergency situations, building a citywide culture of readiness and care. Together, these investments reflect a proactive, resident-centered approach to safety, opportunity, and community well-being.