



# Human Services Fund

Administered by United Way of Greater Cincinnati

## FY2024/2025 Recommendations

# Agenda

- Overview of Human Services Fund
- Proposal Review Process
- FY 2024-2025 Recommendations from Human Service Advisory Committee (HSAC)
- Questions

# Overview

## Human Services Fund

- 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.



## Priority Areas & Amounts

- Funding to support human services aligned to specific **Service Categories**:
  - Comprehensive Workforce Development
  - Supporting, Securing, and Stabilizing Housing for High-Risk Populations
  - Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction
- **Impact Award** to support one collaborative effort focused on:
  - Eviction Prevention & Housing Stabilization

Reference: [Motion 202202006](#)

# Partners & 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  
Makes recommendations on other human services related processes  
Monitors programs  
Program promotion



## United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Runs proposal process  
Facilitates and staffs HSAC  
Subcontracts with selected grantees and disburses funding  
Monitors programs  
Administers reporting  
Program promotion



## Selected Grantees

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

# Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)



Amber  
Twitty, Chair



Kristen,  
Smitherman-  
Voltaire, Vice Chair



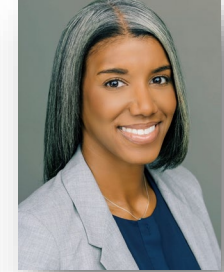
Ariel Miller,  
Secretary



Maurice Stewart



Heidi Mechley-Felton



Kristin Goins



Venita  
Dell



Karlyn Wade-  
Richardson



Leslie Rich



Lauren Merten

## Additional Members:

Mia Sears

La'Shaunda Ewing

Shannon Nixson (New)

Randi Burlew (New)

Dari Daniels (New)

Carla Belcher (New)

Courtney Morabito (New)

# The United Way Team



**amy weber**  
Chief Impact Officer

Leads UW's  
Community Impact Team



**Sue Casey-Leininger**  
Sr. Mgr, Impact &  
Investments

HSF Administration



**Laura Plaisted**  
Grants Manager

e-CImpact technical  
assistance,  
HSF Administration



**Emily Goddard**  
Manager, Outcomes  
& Compliance

Contracts

# Timeline

## City of Cincinnati Human Services Funding Process For FY 24 (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024)



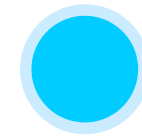
Priorities set for FY24 & FY25 by December 2022  
(Council)



Engagement Process in January and February 2023  
(UWGC/HSAC)



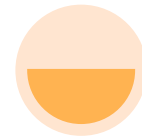
RFP opened in February; proposals due by March 28 (Service) and April 30 (Impact)  
(UWGC)



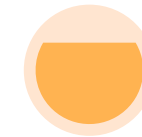
Review of Agency Proposals April & May 2023  
(UWGC/HSAC)



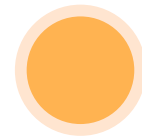
HSAC Recommendations to Council by early June  
(UWGC/HSAC)



Council Approval with Budget June 14  
(Council)



Contract Process with FY24 Partners Complete by August 31, 2023  
(City)



September 1, 2023 FY24 Programs Begin  
(Agency)



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# Comprehensive Workforce Development

## Priorities and Goal(s) of Funding

Through this priority, Council seeks to fund projects that:

- **expand** access to quality childcare;
- **build** capacity and career opportunities within the childcare industry;
- **provide** upskill training that prepares women for careers in growing sectors such as technology, infrastructure, or sustainability;
- or other similar projects with a focus on creating economic stability.

Removing barriers to workforce participation and providing the training for a meaningful career will empower mothers and caregivers to return the workforce, achieve financial stability, and increase the tax base for the City.

# Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction

## Priorities and Goal(s) of Funding

With this project, Council seeks to fund projects that:

- **target** youth in the top neighborhoods\* for gun violence
- \* *City of Cincinnati data on gun violence and violent crimes is provided as reference document to the RFP*
- **address** all those caught in the cycle of gun violence - both the potential victims and the potential perpetrators;
- **provide** economic stability for youth at-risk living in the top neighborhoods, such as job training, training stipends, credentialing, or placement in good-paying jobs;
- and other community- and place-based initiatives.

These types of community-based intervention and prevention strategies help to break the cycle of violence and will help us build a safer Cincinnati.

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

## Priorities and Goal(s) of Funding

Through this priority, Council seeks to provide funding for projects aimed at the populations at most high-risk for homelessness that:

- **provide** housing support;
- **provide** transitional housing for those in recovery; or
- other housing resources.

Taking a housing-first approach to helping our most high-risk and vulnerable residents will create a stable, equitable future for all Cincinnatians.

# Proposal Process – Overview

## Service Category Request for Proposals

Applications were submitted under the following three priority areas:

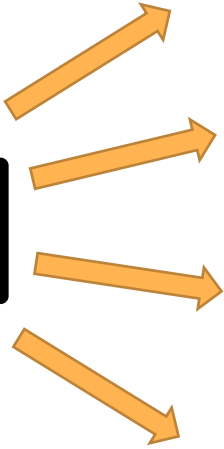
- Comprehensive Workforce Development
- Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction
- Supporting, Securing, and Stabilizing Housing for High-Risk Populations

**90 organizations submitted 112 program proposals with funding requests exceeding \$11.3 million dollars.**



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# HSAC Evaluation Standards



- Organizational Capacity, Experience & Expertise to Implement Proposed Program (DEI component)
- Evidence of Data-Informed Approach(es) and Proposed Impact
- Alignment with Goals of the Service Category and Priority Area(s)
- High Potential to Achieve the Targeted Impact
- Collectively, diverse portfolio



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# Proposal Process – Service Categories

HSAC conducted a review process that resulted in funding recommendations:

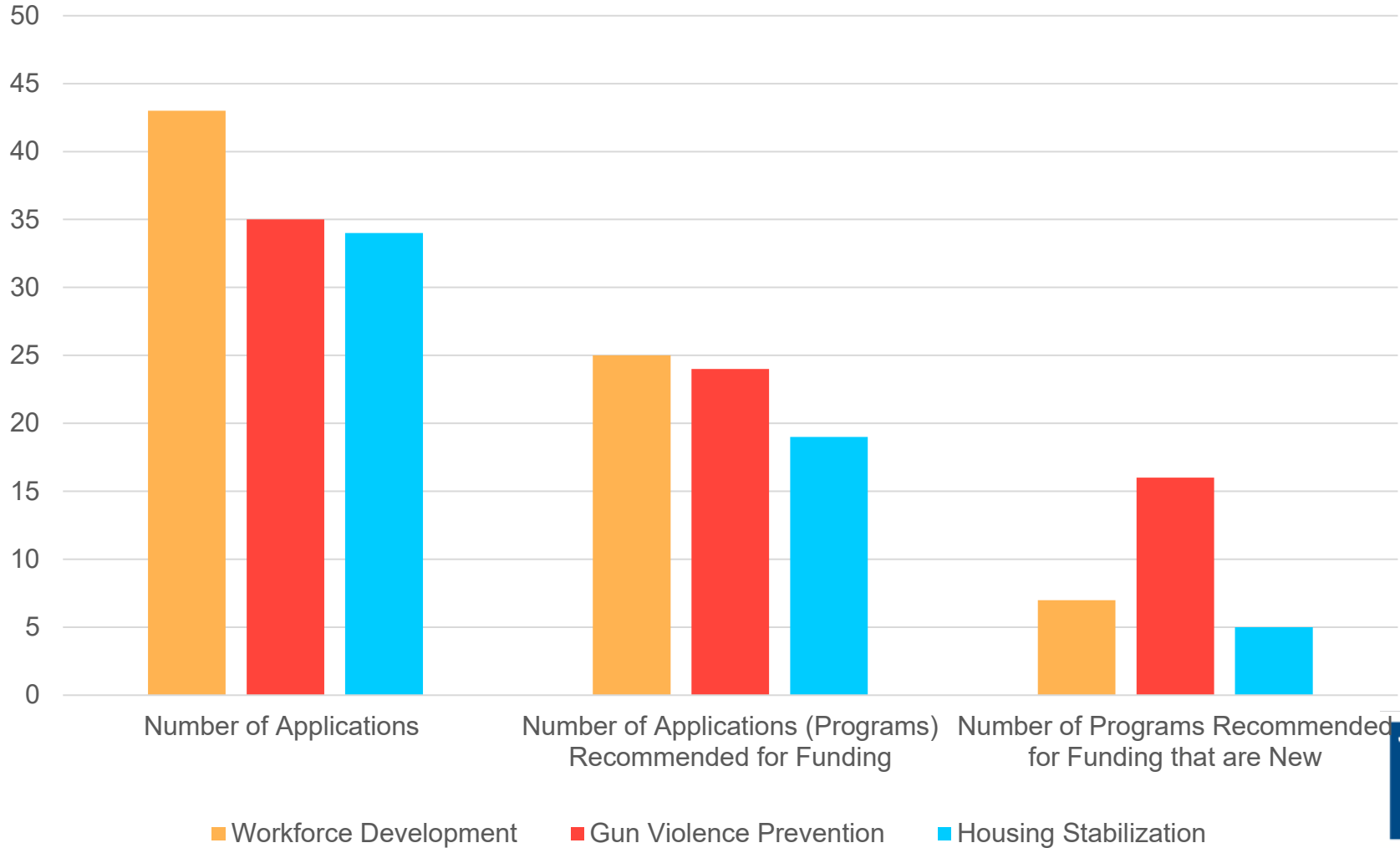
	Workforce Development	Gun Violence Prevention	Housing Stabilization
<b>Number of Applications</b>	43	35	34
<b>Number of Applications (Programs) Recommended for Funding</b>	25	24	19
<b>Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding</b>	58%	69%	56%
<b>Number of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New</b>	7	16	5
<b>Percentage of Programs Recommended for Funding that are New</b>	28%	67%	26%



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# Proposal Process – Service Categories

## Service Category Proposal Statistics



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# Proposal Process – Service Categories

The Human Services Advisory Committee voted and unanimously recommends 68 programs for funding at \$4.9 million dollars.

	<b>Workforce Development</b>	<b>Gun Violence Prevention</b>	<b>Housing Stabilization</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Number of Agencies Recommended for Funding</b>	24	23	16	<b>63</b>
<b>Number of Programs Recommended for Funding</b>	25	24	19	<b>68</b>
<b>Amount of Recommended Funding</b>	\$1,994,232	\$1,595,386	\$1,300,000	<b>\$4,889,618</b>



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# Proposal Process – Service Categories

## Summary of Trends

### *Comprehensive Workforce Development*

- Organizations recommended for funding provide services to diverse segments of the Cincinnati population including domestic violence survivors, women with children, returning citizens, immigrants, veterans, among others.
- Several programs focus on women in the workforce including HER Cincinnati, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, and Dress for Success Cincinnati.
- Competition for this category was high with 44 programs submitted for consideration. Several previously funded programs were not recommended due to the competition.
- Two organizations focus on childcare solutions, Learning Grove and 4C for Children.

### Examples of New Types of Applicants:

- 4C for Children
- Health Care Access Now
- Immigrant and Refugee Law Center



# Recommendations – Comprehensive Workforce Development

## Comprehensive Workforce Development 23 Organizations - 25 Programs - \$1,994,232

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Funding
4C for Children	Child Care Solutions Program HSF	\$70,000.00
Addiction Services Council	Chemical Dependency Professionals Training Program	\$115,000.00
Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio	Comprehensive Workforce Development Program for New Americans HSF	\$94,600.00
<i>Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.</i>	<i>Employment Reentry Services for Formerly Incarcerated Cincinnati Residents HSF</i>	\$145,220.00
Cincinnati Union Bethel (Doing Business As: HER Cincinnati)	Cincinnati Scholar House HSF	\$94,741.00
Cincinnati Works	Job Readiness and Phoenix Programs HSF	\$125,000.00
<i>Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency</i>	<i>STEP into Stability and Success</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency</i>	<i>Career Pathways: Health Careers</i>	\$50,681.00
CincySmiles Foundation	CSF Case Management Program [Workforce Development Program Participants/CSF Oral Health Care Clients] (City ARP)	\$60,000.00
City Gospel Mission	JobsPlus HSF	\$40,000.00
<i>Corporation for Findlay Market</i>	<i>Findlay Learn</i>	\$119,000.00
Dress for Success Cincinnati	Workforce Development Program HSF	\$91,000.00
Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati (formerly Easter Seal TriState LLC)	ESGC Military & Veteran Services (MVS) HSF	\$50,000.00

# Recommendations – Comprehensive Workforce Development

## Comprehensive Workforce Development - Continued

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Funding
Health Care Access Now	<i>Expanding the Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program</i>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
Immigrant and Refugee Law Center	<i>Employment Initiative for Immigrants and Refugees</i>	<b>\$58,000.00</b>
Learning Grove	<i>High-Quality Preschool Education: Ensuring All Children Reach their Full Potential</i>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati	Clearing Legal Hurdles to Employment HSF	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries HSF	Workforce Supports HSF	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries HSF	Healthcare Career Pathway - Home Care Aide –State Tested Nurse Aide Training- Healthcare Worker Readiness Program HSF	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	Second Chance Community Legal Clinics HSF	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
Per Scholas	Per Scholas Cincinnati IT Training: Increasing Financial Stability for Women through Meaningful IT Careers	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.	Workforce Development Program HSF	<b>\$75,500.00</b>
Talbert House	Employment Services HSF	<b>\$42,990.00</b>
Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio (ULGSO)	<i>Impact: Adult Workforce Programs</i>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>
YWCA Greater Cincinnati	YWCA Workforce Development HSF	<b>\$52,500.00</b>

## Summary of Trends

### *Youth Gun Violence Prevention*

- The programs recommended represent a range of tactics to address the issue including some neighborhood-targeted programs and other city-wide programs.
- Some are traditional mentorship programs and others address social emotional learning, life and career skills for youth, mental health and legal services.
- Several programs not recommended for funding are still strong programs. A few new applicants struggled with writing a clear proposal.

### Examples of New Types of Applicants:

- Wesley Chapel Mission Center
- Found Village
- Cincinnati Black Theatre Company



# Recommendations – Youth Gun Violence and Prevention

## Youth Gun Violence and Prevention 23 Organizations - 24 Programs - \$1,595,386

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Funding
<i>Adopt A Class Foundation</i>	<i>Career and Life Skills Mentorship for Today's Students as Tomorrow's Leaders</i>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
<i>Beech Acres Parenting Center</i>	<i>Beyond the Classroom</i>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
<i>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati</i>	<i>BGCGC - Graduate Education Program for Cincinnati Youth</i>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
<i>Children's Law Center</i>	<i>Holistic Legal Services for Vulnerable Children, Teens, and Young Adults: Education, Employment, Housing, Safety, Justice</i>	<b>\$62,100.00</b>
<i>CINCINNATI BLACK THEATRE COMPANY</i>	<i>Youth Violence Prevention "I Will Live and Not Die"</i>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>
<i>Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center</i>	<i>Joining Forces for Children</i>	<b>\$67,882.38</b>
<i>Cincinnati Urban Promise, Inc.</i>	<i>Cincinnati Urban Promise - LEaders of Promise After School Program</i>	<b>\$66,000.00</b>
<i>FamiliesFORWARD/Learning Grove</i>	<i>Victory Over Violence: Building Family Resiliency HSF</i>	<b>\$85,000.00</b>
<i>Found Village</i>	<i>Journey2Independence: Coaching and Career Readiness to Prevent Violence</i>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
<i>Guiding Light Mentoring</i>	<i>Project EPIC: Endless Possibilities Influencing Change HSF</i>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>
<i>Mentoring Young Minds</i>	<i>Youth Mentoring</i>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<i>Price Hill Will</i>	<i>Price Hill Will MYCincinnati</i>	<b>\$57,194.00</b>
<i>Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.</i>	<i>Lower Price Hill Collaborative HSF</i>	<b>\$90,000.00</b>
<i>Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses</i>	<i>Findlay Street Neighborhood House</i>	<b>\$127,000.00</b>

# Recommendations – Youth Gun Violence and Prevention

## Youth Gun Violence and Prevention - Continued

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Funding
<i>Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses</i>	<i>Findlay Street Neighborhood House</i>	<b>\$127,000.00</b>
<i>SuperSeeds</i>	<i>SuperSeeds - Option's Day Program</i>	<b>\$90,000.00</b>
<i>Sweet Sistah Splash</i>	<i>Sweet Sistah Splash - Hamilton County SNP</i>	<b>\$34,210.00</b>
Talbert House	<i>Protection from Abuse Adults</i>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio (ULGSO)	Urban Champions: Youth Empowerment Programs	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
<i>Wesley Chapel Mission Center</i>	<i>Junior Assistants</i>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<i>Wesley Chapel Mission Center</i>	<i>WCMC High School Program</i>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
WhitneyStrong Inc.	Whitney/Strong (W/S) - Save a Life (SAL) Program Expansion HSF	<b>\$46,000.00</b>
Women Helping Women	Prevent and Empower Program HSF	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
<i>Young CEO Program S.E.E.W.T.P</i>	<i>Young CEO Program S.E.E.W.T.P</i>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
YWCA Greater Cincinnati	School Violence Prevention Partnership HSF	<b>\$90,000.00</b>

## Summary of Trends

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

- There were many very strong programs that fit well with the City's intent. With almost \$4M in requests and only \$1.3M for award, HSAC had to make difficult decisions as many of the applications demonstrated strong alignment and programs.
- Recommended programs include the City shelters that applied. They provide services to a wide swath of the population, including high-risk populations. These programs were seen as vital to the homeless support infrastructure, which is why HSAC provided recommendations with lower funding amounts rather than reduce the number of funded programs.
- Given the limited funding in this category, many currently programs are funded at lower levels, including Found House and HER Cincinnati's Anna Louise Inn. These programs and organizations represent necessary lifelines and support networks within our City. While the Impact Award will hopefully prevent more families from homelessness in the future, there is an immediate and ongoing need to help City residents overcome housing insecurity. The gap between what housing costs and what thousands of our families are able to earn is worsening.

### Examples of New Types of Applicants:

- Cornerstone Renter Equity
- Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses



# Recommendations – Supporting, Securing and Stabilizing Housing

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

16 Organizations - 19 Programs - \$1,300,000

Agency Name	Program Name	Recommended Funding
Bethany House Services, Inc.	Shelter Diversion HSF	\$60,000.00
Bethany House Services, Inc.	Preventing Homelessness HSF	\$60,000.00
Bethany House Services, Inc.	Bethany House Services Emergency Shelter HSF	\$80,000.00
Caracole, Inc.	Caracole House 3.0 Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless/Unstably Housed HIV+ Individuals HSF	\$80,000.00
Cincinnati Union Bethel (HER Cincinnati)	Anna Louise Inn HSF	\$55,000.00
Cincinnati Union Bethel (HER Cincinnati)	Off the Streets HSF	\$80,550.00
<i>Cornerstone Renter Equity</i>	<i>Renter Equity</i>	\$50,000.00
Found House Interfaith Housing Network	Services to Homeless Families HSF	\$90,000.00
<i>Jewish Family Service of the Cincinnati Area</i>	<i>Homeless Prevention &amp; Housing Stability Program at Jewish Family Service</i>	\$50,000.00
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati	Homeless Prevention for High-Risk Populations	\$70,000.00
Lighthouse Youth & Family Services	Lighthouse Collaborative for Homeless Youth HSF	\$75,000.00
<i>Pro Seniors, Inc.</i>	<i>City Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program HSF</i>	\$54,450.00
Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.	Stable Families Program-HSF	\$80,000.00
<i>Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses</i>	<i>Trauma Recovery Center of Cincinnati</i>	\$85,000.00
<i>Shelterhouse Volunteer Group, dba: Shelterhouse</i>	<i>Case Management Program HSF</i>	\$95,000.00
Strategies to End Homelessness	<i>Central Access Point (CAP)</i>	\$40,000.00
Tender Mercies, Inc.	Tender Mercies Permanent Supportive Housing Program HSF	\$60,000.00
The First Step Home, Inc.	Housing for Recovery	\$85,000.00
YWCA Greater Cincinnati	TLP	\$50,000.00



# Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization

## Purpose and Goal of the Impact Award

With the Impact Award, Council seeks to fund one collaborative project between multiple organizations and the City to address Cincinnati's eviction and housing crisis. The project should work to reduce evictions and stabilize housing by tracking eviction trends; using predictive analysis; funding immediate costs; and providing access to legal services.

Project proposals are encouraged to leverage multiple solutions to create a comprehensive strategy to address eviction and housing instability, including access to legal services, financial support, and social services. Reducing the number of evictions will ensure more stability for families and children, reduce the community costs associated with evictions, maximize the City's limited housing supply, and create a better quality of life for residents of all our neighborhoods.

# Proposal Process – Impact Award

Six applications were received under the new Impact Award RFP.

**The application submitted by Strategies to End Homelessness - Cincinnati Family Housing Stabilization Collaborative Project - is recommended for funding at \$2,130,080.** As a collaborative application, the budget includes funding for staff at other community partners. All of the collaborative partners included in the budget are also being recommended for funding under the Service Categories. Those partners include: Strategies to End Homelessness, Bethany House, Found House, Legal Aid, Lighthouse, YWCA.

The other applications, not recommended for funding, were submitted by: Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, FII-National dba Up Together, High Achievers Aim High, The Community Builders, Inc., united resource connection incorporated.



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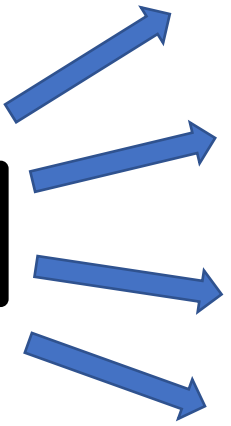
## Proposal Process – Impact Award

- The proposed collaboration offers the widest possible reach among families and individuals who are becoming housing insecure, so the potential to learn what works for different populations is the greatest.
- The outreach includes home visits by St. Vincent de Paul, Legal Aid's intake line, the CAP, and Lighthouse Youth Services, for example. The other proposals served a narrower slice of those at risk.
- The proposal reflected a lot of work by the partners in thinking through how to make the best use of this planning and pilot project, and they have a long and fruitful history of collaboration on behalf of homeless Cincinnatians.
- They are ready to hit the ground running.



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# HSAC Evaluation Standards



- Organizational Capacity, Experience & Expertise to Implement Proposed Program
- Evidence of Data-Informed Approach(es) and Proposed Impact
- Alignment with Goals of the Impact Award
- High Potential for Systems Change Learning, Scale or Sustainability



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# Summary of Changes from FY 22 to FY 24 Recommendations

	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24
Applications Received	68	68 (N/A)	112
Applications Funded	60 (88%)	60 (N/A)	68 (61%)
Number of Applications from New Agencies	unknown	0 (N/A)	59
Amount allocated for all Service Categories	\$4,904,247	\$6,408,512	\$4,889,618
Median	\$43,139	\$95,573	\$70,000
Mean	\$81,737	\$106,808	\$71,906



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## Summary of Changes from FY 22 to FY 24 Recommendations

- You will see that the amount for Service Categories this year is effectively the same (only \$5k lower) than in FY22, plus we now have the Impact Award. However, due to the over 30% increase between FY22 and FY23, the median and average of the award amounts are lower, so individual agencies may be funded at lower levels.
- Only 4 organizations currently funded by HSF FY23 did not apply for funding. These programs primarily receive funding for programs that support senior services. One partner receives funding under workforce development.
- Currently Funded Agencies that did not apply for funding: Adventure Crew, Dohn Community High School, 55 North (merged with Meals on Wheels), home52, LLC
- Additionally, 5 currently funded organizations were not recommended for funding in FY24. Due to the increase in applications, the funding process was more competitive and there were not sufficient resources to fund all strong applications.



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# Additional Considerations

Based on the recent Human Services Funding process, HSAC will be debriefing the recent process and gathering feedback from applicants to create recommendations that:

- improve access to funding
- increase knowledge of the funding and
- support diversity, equity and inclusion in funded programs

Given the staggered terms of current HSAC members, HSAC plans to submit recommendations for additional committee members to the Mayor to help maintain a full committee.



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Thank you!

