City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

Chairperson Jeff Cramerding
Vice Chair Evan Nolan
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember Anna Albi
Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Kearney
Councilmember Meeka Owens
Councilmember Scotty Johnson
Councilmember Seth Walsh
Councilmember Ryan James

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 | **5:30 PM** | **Council Chambers, Room 300**

PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENTATIONS

Budget Basics and Leveraged Support

Dr. Andrew Dudas, Budget Director

AGENDA

1. 202601033 **COMMUNICATION,** submitted by Councilmember Cramerding regarding City of Cincinnati Competitive Grant Programs and City of Cincinnati Community Development Block Grant Programs.

Sponsors: Cramerding

Attachments: City of Cincinnati Competitive Grant Programs
City of Cincinnati CDBG Programs

2. 202601034 **PRESENTATION,** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 3/4/2026, regarding Budget Basics and Leveraged Support.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Presentation

ADJOURNMENT

Program Name	Program Description	Program Eligibility	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Program Website	Additional Comments	Application Date
Business / Neighborhood Support								
Business Improvement Program	This cost share beautification program is offered to registered Business Districts and Community Councils to assist in the care of flower pots within the street scape. Upon entering into a contract, the Park Board installs three seasonal flower displays and provides annual maintenance of the pots. Business Districts and Community Councils are responsible for providing the pots, soil, and half the cost of planting and annual maintenance (currently at $330 per pot, per year).	Program limited to registered Business Districts and Communtiy Councils with the City of Cincinnati	Parks	Crystal Courtney, Parks Division of Natural Resources Division Manager and Ann Uhlman, Parks Division of Natural Resources, Greenspace District Crew Leader	crystal.courtney@cincinnati-oh.gov ann.uhlman@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 861-9070	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cincyparks/natural-resources/greenspace/	Parks currently services 28+ districts with 3 annual container displays: Spring, Summer, Fall/Winter. Current waitlist.	Contracts initiated in October.
Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Program	This program provides resources for catalytic projects within the City's neighborhoods. Projects funded through this program are evaluated based on their ability to create a catalytic impact to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods.	For profit, not-for-profit, hybrid, and sole proprietorships are eligible.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Greg Koehler - Department of Community and Economic Development	Greg.Koehler@cincinnati-oh.gov	https://choosecincy.com/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-catalytic-capital-investment-rfp/	Predevelopment funding for projects that need soft cost resources to advance to the construction phase of the project. The maximum request is $100,000.	Applications traditionally open in July and is due in early September.
Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP)	NBDIP is an award-winning program that allocates annual funding for improvement projects that attract and retain small businesses in all Cincinnati neighborhood business districts (NBDs). It can directly benefit a business district with parking additions, façade improvements, or building renovations. It can also provide indirect benefits by funding streetscapes or wayfinding signage to make the district more appealing to customers and residents.	Must be a recognized community organization representing a recognized neighborhood business district. Annual guidelines are published on website on application requirements.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Bob Bertsch and Diana Vakharia- Department of Community and Economic Development	Robert.Bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov Diana.Vakharia@cincinnati-oh.gov	https://choosecincy.com/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-business-district-improvement-program-nbdip/	Applications traditionally released in January	Applications open and pre-applications due in Q3 of FY (January - March)
Operating Support for Community Development Corporations (CDCs)	This program provides operating support to build and strengthen capacity of eligible non-profit Community Development Corporations (CDCs). Eligible entities serve the region through developing affordable housing units, performing commercial and economic development, addressing public facilities and streetscape activities, violence prevention / reduction, neighborhood safety, and increasing community engagement in the neighborhoods.	Must be a recognized community development corporation within the City of Cincinnati. HOMEBASE as a service provider sets the operating support grant parameters through General Fund, CDBG and HOME	Department of Community and Economic Development	Bob Bertsch and Joseph Malek - Department of Community and Economic Development	Robert.Bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov Joseph.Malek@cincinnati-oh.gov	https://www.homebasecincy.org/programs-and-services/operational-support-grant	Program Delivered by Homebase Cincinnati	Opens in Spring; available for CDC member organizations.
Environment								
Urban Agriculture	Mini-grants to support urban agriculture production and growing sites as well as local food aggregation distribution sites within the City and achieve the food goals and recommendations of the Green Cincinnati Plan.	Location of the growing site or distribution site must be within the City of Cincinnati. Applicants can be non-profit organizations or for-profit businesses and other entities may be considered.	Office of Environment and Sustainability	Robin Henderson - Office of Environment and Sustainability	robin.henderson@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 352-5340	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/food/urban-agriculture/	Amount awarded varies year to year based on available funding. No funding for individuals.	Applications traditionally due in December.
GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program	The Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) Seeds of Change Grant Program aims to help communities take steps toward a more sustainable and equitable future. The program encourages residents and partners to initiate projects that prioritize the environment and resilience in Cincinnati. The focus is on supporting resident-driven solutions that help those most affected by climate change in the city and bring the GCP to life in new ways.	1) Impact within the city limits; 2) Nonprofit status or fiscal sponsor in place; 3) Grassroots/Community-based effort with budget under $500k; 4) Project must be able to be completed within 6 months of award.	Office of Environment and Sustainability	Molly Robertshaw - OES	molly.robertshaw@cincinnati-oh.gov	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/green-cincinnati-plan/seeds-of-change-grant-program/	Different rounds have slightly different emphases and requirements, so please refer to the website for more information	Multiple; Refer to website

Program Name	Program Description	Program Eligibility	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Program Website	Additional Comments	Application Date
Housing								
Quick Strike Acquisition Program for CDCs	This program provides assistance for property acquisition by neighborhood serving non-profit organizations in furtherance of community building, housing, and economic development	Any neighborhood business association, community council, community development corporation or community-based organization housed within a Cincinnati neighborhood for at least five years, and organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes as set forth in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or is registered with the State of Ohio Secretary of State as a non-profit organization and licensed to operate its organization in the State of Ohio. Funding can be used for cost of acquisition and associated soft costs of due diligence	Department of Community and Economic Development	Bob Bertsch and Joseph Malek - Department of Community and Economic Development	Robert.Bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov Joseph.Malek@cincinnati-oh.gov	https://www.homebasecincy.org/quick-strike-acquisition-and-project-support-fund	Program Delivered by Homebase Cincinnati	Opens in Summer.
Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)	The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) loan program provides residential developers with gap financing with flexible terms for transformative housing projects that will make positive, visible impacts on our communities.	Varies year-to-year based on available resources. See NOFA Guidelines on website for applicable year.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Breanna White and Morgan Rahe - Department of Community and Economic Development	Breanna.white@cincinnati-oh.gov Morgan.rahe@cincinnati-oh.gov	https://choosecincy.com/real-estate-development/notice-of-funding-availability/	Applications and guidelines traditionally released in February	Applications traditionally open in February and due in May.
Essential Services	Essential Services is a new property maintenance code enforcement program that will help reduce the number of evacuations of residential tenants due to unsafe conditions within residential rental properties. The program will allow us to remediate the failure of essential building facilities, such as heat, electrical, and fire safety exiting facilities, within residential rental buildings on an emergency basis.	Any property owner, with residential occupants, who have failed to remediate a hazardous condition and would thus be forced to vacate the resident occupants.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov 513-352-1911	Buildings - Buildings (cincinnati-oh.gov)	Focus on Safe and Affordable Housing, Housing Preservation, and Public Safety; Newly funded program for FY 2024	Open on an ongoing basis.
Avondale Rehabilitation Pilot Program	The program is a grant based program to assist small scale landlords who own 5 rental units or less (5 doors)	Process still in development. The owner must be a city of cincinnati resident and own 5 doors or less total. The address being serviced are on Lexington, Rockdale or Hutchinson streets. Owner must complete rental restration and landlord education training.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov 513-352-1911	Buildings - Buildings (cincinnati-oh.gov)	$500,000 grant program, contract with Max Construction Group executed September 2025	Open on an ongoing basis.
Human Services								
Boots on the Ground Fund	To strengthen the capacity of small, community-based organizations. To create more equitable solutions by prioritizing inclusion, community voice, and engagement with leaders of color and those with lived experience.	Is classified as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or collaborates with and utilizes a fiscal agent that is specifically identified in the application. Has an annual operating budget of less than $1 million. Has a principal place of business within and serves the needs of neighborhoods within the geographic boundaries of the City of Cincinnati. Demonstrates service to one or more neighborhoods within the geographic boundaries of the City of Cincinnati in select areas.	City Manager's Office	Adison Nelson - The Greater Cincinnati Foundation	adison.nelson@gcfdn.org (513) 768-6108	https://www.gcfdn.org/rfp/	Priorities include access to affordable, healthy food, access to health care & public health, Gun violence & gang prevention, Homelessness prevention & access to affordable housing, Mental Health, behavioral health & substance use services, Workforce development, Youth development.	RFP opens in CY Q4 (October, November, December)
Community Preventive Education Grant	CPD partners with local non-profit organizations that will provide support and encourage community-based drug and alcohol preventative education programs.	Organization/program needs to have a footprint within the City of Cincinnati.	Police	Josh Drake - Police Finance Management	CPDFiscal@cincinnati-oh.gov or joshua.drake@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 352-2586	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/community-involvement/community-preventive-education-program/		Applications are accepted twice a year: April & October.
Human Services Fund	Through priority initiatives, the City seeks to partner with local organizations to collaboratively use their data to better understand the problems facing Cincinnati residents. By introducing specific, measurable priorities and leveraging city leadership and departmental resources, we can build a stronger and healthier City, together.	Agencies must be 501(c)(3) organizations compliant with licensing, accreditation, and legal requirements. Non-profit organizations do not need to be physically located in the City of Cincinnati, but City of Cincinnati Human Services funds may only be used to support city residents.	City Manager's Office	Amy Weber - United Way of Greater Cincinnati	amy.weber@uwgc.org (513) 762-7164	https://www.uwgc.org/for-nonprofits/funding-opportunities	Evaluation criteria: demonstrates a strong collaboration of multiple community partners or stakeholders; demonstrates the capacity to implement the proposed project within the time period and proposed budget; and demonstrates the experience and expertise to implement the proposed services and provide culturally responsive services to targeted communities (lived experience, representation of staff in comparison to the community, and professional education, experience, expertise)	For FY 2024-2025, 68 agencies received funding in 3 priority service areas identified by Council: Workforce initiatives (25), Youth Gun Violence Prevention (24), and Housing Stability (19). The Impact Award was awarded to Strategies to End Homelessness and 8 subgrantees.
Leveraged Support Application Process	The City of Cincinnati provides financial support to specific programs or for the general operations of organizations that perform a service benefiting Cincinnati residents. Organizations are expected to leverage funding from the City with additional financial resources – either raised from other governmental or private entities or as earned revenue from providing a service.	The applicant must be an existing organization that has at minimum three years of audited financial statements or federal tax returns and must not be debarred from contracting or subcontracting with the City.	City Manager's Office	Tonia Smith - City Manager's Office	tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 352-5361	https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/leveraged-support/	The City Manager will evaluate recommendations based on the following criteria: 1. Leverage – The extent that the City's funds are being leveraged by other public or private sources generated by the applicant. The higher the amount of City funding requested, the higher the expectation will be for leveraging. 2. Impact – The historic and projected impact of the applicant's services, the applicant's demonstrated capacity to timely and effectively deliver the services, and the efficiency in use of funds to maximize funding committed to program delivery. 3. Strategic Goal Alignment – The extent that the applicant's provided services align with the strategic goals of the City Administration and Elected Officials in addressing identified public needs or other gaps in services needed by City residents.	Annual application to open Q3 of FY (January through March)
Safety/Blight Removal								
Safe and Clean	Support and encourage community-based efforts to improve neighborhood safety, eliminate blight, and increase livability through problem solving projects.	Grants applications will be accepted from a wide variety of community groups and organizations for one-time costs associated with projects that improve safety and livability of a community. Full eligibility guidelines available on website.	City Manager's Office	Ty Wesselkamper - Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	ty@keepcincinnatibeautiful.org	https://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/resources/safe-and-clean/	Quarterly application windows.	Quarterly application windows (January, May, September)

Program Name	Program Description	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Additional Comments	Application Date
Economic Development						
Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment Program	The Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment Program, formerly known as The Strategic Program for Urban Redevelopment (SPUR) facilitates catalytic redevelopment of abandoned, vacant, or underutilized industrial and commercial sites throughout the City. The program focuses on addressing environmental contamination and obstacles preventing development of blighted areas, specifically in areas with imminent threats to human health and the environment. The funds are utilized for environmental assessments, contamination remediation, public improvements, infrastructure improvements, acquisition, demolition, stabilization, construction, reconstruction, installation of public works and facilities, prevent and mitigate the spread of environmental contamination and / or risk to human health, and other related activities to facilitate redevelopment.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Bob Bertsch - Department of Community and Economic Development	Robert.Bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov	Project Selection / Award Done on a Case by Case Basis	Ongoing - Rolling Basis for projects
Operating Support for Community Development Corporations (CDCs)	This program provides operating support to build and strengthen capacity of eligible non-profit Community Development Corporations (CDCs). Eligible entities serve the region through developing affordable housing units, performing commercial and economic development, addressing public facilities and streetscape activities, violence prevention / reduction, neighborhood safety, and increasing community engagement in the neighborhoods.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Bob Bertsch and Joseph Malek - Department of Community and Economic Development	Robert.Bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov Joseph.Malek@cincinnati-oh.gov	Program Delivered by Homebase Cincinnati	Opens in Spring; available for CDC member organizations.
Empower Neighborhoods	This program provides project support to build and strengthen capacity of eligible non-profit Community Development Corporations (CDCs). Eligible entities serve the region through developing affordable housing units, performing commercial and economic development, addressing public facilities and streetscape activities, violence prevention / reduction, neighborhood safety, and increasing community engagement in the neighborhoods	Department of Community and Economic Development	Bob Bertsch and Joseph Malek - Department of Community and Economic Development	Robert.Bertsch@cincinnati-oh.gov Joseph.Malek@cincinnati-oh.gov	Program Delivered by Homebase Cincinnati	Opens in Spring; available for CDC member organizations.
Homelessness / Eviction Prevention						
Emergency Mortgage Assistance + Tenant Representation	The Emergency Mortgage Assistance program provides in-depth foreclosure prevention counseling, negotiations with mortgage companies, legal assistance and case management to prevent foreclosure. When homeowners are facing foreclosure due to job loss, illness, death of the primary wage earner, or other circumstances beyond their control, the program may provide up to three months of mortgage payments to bring their loans current. The Tenant Representation Program provides legal representation for low to moderate-income tenants. The program prevents homelessness by stopping unlawful evictions, corrects illegal lockouts and utility shutoffs, and requires property owners to complete repairs to make rental units decent, safe, and sanitary. The project also prevents retaliation against tenants who contact the City about code violations.	City Manager's Office - Office of Human Services	Deanna White	Deanna.White@cincinnati-oh.gov	Program Delivered by Legal Aid Services	Applicants call Legal Aid directly; available on an ongoing basis
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	ESG funds the operation of emergency shelter facilities as well as essential services for the residences. A current maximum of 60% the annual ESG entitlement allocation may be utilized for shelter funds. ESG Rapid Re-Housing activities will provide Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services and short and medium-term Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA).	City Manager's Office - Office of Human Services	Deanna White - City Manager's Office	Deanna.White@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Homelessness	Funds are issued to STEH directly to distribute to providers participating in the Prince of Peace funding process. Typically due in December.

Program Name	Program Description	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Additional Comments	Application Date
HOPWA Services and Support	HOPWA funds will provide housing assistance through Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance (STRMU), Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), and permanent housing placement. HOPWA-funded TBRA services to individuals with HIV/AIDS that require assistance with rent or mortgage expenses. HOPWA funds will also be used to support the operation of Caracole's two transitional living facilities persons displaced by HIV/AIDS. Costs will include utilities, phone, insurance, regular maintenance, supplies and residential operating staff. In addition, HOPWA funding will be used to support the cost of nursing and personal care, case management, and meals for HIV/AIDS clients. Services are provided by three sponsor agencies, Center for Respite Care, Northern Kentucky Health Independent District, and Caracole.	City Manager's Office - Office of Human Services	Deanna White - City Manager's Office	Deanna.White@cincinnati-oh.gov	Funding for Persons / Housing Assistance to Persons Living with AIDS and HIV	Funds are issued to STEH directly to distribute to providers participating in the HOPWA funding process. Typically due in December.
Housing						
American Dream Downpayment Initiative	The American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) program funds down payment assistance for the purchase of single-family owner-occupied housing by first-time, eligible low to moderate income homebuyers or eligible homebuyers that have not owned property in the last three years. ADDI funds are not to exceed $14,999. ADDI funds are awarded as a five-year non-interest-bearing deferred loan payment with a five-year residency requirement. All or a portion of the funds will be recaptured in the event a homeowner moves from the residence, sells or transfers ownership during the five-year residency period. All ADDI recipients are required to take a HUD-approved homebuyer counseling course in advance of receiving this assistance.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Lawrence Taylor - Department of Community and Economic Development	Lawrence.Taylor@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Affordable Housing, Homebuyer Assistance, and Direct Financial Assistance	Ongoing - Rolling Basis for homebuyers
Strategic Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP)	SHIP provides financing for the renovation of multifamily units and single-family development, permanent supportive housing, emergency stabilization, infrastructure, urban homesteading projects, and the construction, conversion, renovation, rehabilitation of shelters for the homeless, or assisting persons that are homeless and/or addicted to opioids by the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, installation, or rehabilitation of transitional housing (public facilities)	Department of Community and Economic Development	Roy Hackworth - Department of Community and Economic Development	Roy.Hackworth@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Affordable Housing Projects	Applicants can apply under the competitive Housing Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) that the City issues at least once a year. Applications must meet underwriting and subsidy layering requirements to be considered.
CHDO Development Projects	HUD requires that at least 15% of the federal HOME allocation be used in development projects in partnership with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds will be used for both rental and homeowner projects, new construction and renovations, with certified CHDOs. CHDOs are required to re-certify their designation bi-annually.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Roy Hackworth - Department of Community and Economic Development	Roy.Hackworth@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Affordable Housing Projects with Certain Designated Non-Profit Entities	Funding direct to Homebase, which they offer through a funding program. Typically in Spring; available for CDC member organizations.
Operating Support for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs)	HUD allows that up to 5% of the federal HOME allocation may be used in operating support for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds may be used to cover staff time, rent charges, and any other operating costs of the certified CHDOs. Goal for this project are tied to CHDO Development Projects	Department of Community and Economic Development	Roy Hackworth - Department of Community and Economic Development	Roy.Hackworth@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Affordable Housing Projects with Certain Designated Non-Profit Entities	Funding direct to Homebase, which they offer through a funding program. Typically in Spring; available for CDC member organizations.
Fair Housing Services	Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.), the area's local fair housing agency, administers this program to promote equal housing opportunities for all home seekers regardless of race, sex, color, nationality, religion, handicap, Appalachian status, marital status, sexual orientation, military, gender identity, ancestry, gender identity, transgender status, or familial status and to reduce unlawful discrimination in housing and increase integration throughout Cincinnati's neighborhoods. The program does complaint intake, investigation, counseling, and files legal complaints against persons, firms, or organizations suspected of discrimination in housing.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Breanna White - Department of Community and Economic Development	Breanna.White@cincinnati-oh.gov	Program Delivered by Housing Opportunities Made Equal	Applications open on an ongoing basis through H.O.M.E. Intake Coordinators

Program Name	Program Description	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Additional Comments	Application Date
Family Re-Housing Assistance	This project allows the City of Cincinnati to pay the first month's rent, security deposit, and moving expenses for persons moving to decent, safe and sanitary housing who have been displaced by code enforcement and/or the hazards of lead-based paint. City staff takes applications and provides vacancy and management company lists to clients.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill - Department of Buildings and Inspections	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Housing Stability / Financial Assistance	Open on an ongoing basis.
Homeowner Assistance Repairs and Building Order Remission	Homeowner Assistance Repairs and Building Order Remission (HARBOR). The program will provide financial assistance to low-income, owner-occupied homeowners that receive code violations on their property.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill - Department of Buildings and Inspections	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Safe and Affordable Housing, Housing Preservation, and Public Safety	Open on an ongoing basis.
Housing Repair Services	The Housing Repair Services Program provides grants for emergency and critical repairs to very low-income homeowners. Emergency services are limited to two emergencies per household per year. Critical repairs are those needed for the safety of the property owner. This program will also address code violations for low-income homeowners. In addition to addressing housing repairs for homeowners, this program addresses the mobility needs of disabled and elderly renters and owner-occupied units and will address healthy home issues that may be causing health effects of the occupants.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Helen Hill - Department of Buildings and Inspections	helen.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov	Program Delivered by People Working Cooperatively	Applicants should go directly to PWC for assistance; available on an ongoing basis.

Program Name	Program Description	City Department	Program Contact (Name/Partner Org)	Program Contact Details (Email/Phone)	Additional Comments	Application Date
Lead Hazard Testing Program	Project funds are utilized for the code enforcement activities in eligible census tracts. Lead poisoning reduces IQ, increases tendencies of violence and delinquent behavior, affects a child's ability to learn, and is directly related to lower educational achievement. Children with lead poisoning have reduced lifetime earning potential and are more likely to live in poverty. Properties with Board of Health orders for lead hazard remediation are referred to the HUD Lead Paint Hazard Control Grant program when available.	Cincinnati Health Department	Maryse Amin	Maryse.Amin@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Housing and Public Health	N/A - distributed through Health Department's pursuit of code violations due to lead orders
Blight						
Concentrated Code Enforcement	Inspections of homes and businesses are conducted in low to moderate census tracts throughout the city by the City of Cincinnati Department of Buildings and Inspections' code enforcement inspectors. Corrections achieved through Concentrated Code Enforcement (CCE) include repairing porches, roofs, windows, and siding, painting, and removal of dilapidated garages, fences and sheds. Owners receiving orders are informed of funding availability through the Department of Community and Economic Development to correct violations. Targeted areas are identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls, drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds. Integrated services include concentrating building code enforcement, identifying crime hot spots, cleaning up streets, sidewalks, and vacant lots, beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public right of way, and engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Ed Cunningham - Department of Buildings and Inspections	Edward.Cunningham@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Blight and Nuisance Abatement, Public Health and Safety	N/A - Reactionary program available through B&I as a response to reported issues.
Hazard Abatement Program + Historic Stabilization of Structures	The mission of the Hazard Abatement Program is to preserve public health, safety, and welfare through demolition or barricading of blighted buildings. The program demolishes condemned buildings after normal code enforcement activities have been exhausted. The program also secures vacant abandoned buildings against entry. The Historic Stabilization of Structures Program abates public nuisance conditions and stabilizes properties, including historic buildings. This program is designed to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare while at the same time preserving the structures for potential future rehabilitation.	Department of Buildings and Inspections	Ed Cunningham - Department of Buildings and Inspections	Edward.Cunningham@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Blight and Nuisance Abatement, Public Health and Safety	N/A - Reactionary program available through B&I as a response to reported issues.
Public Service						
Hand Up Initiative	The Hand Up Initiative provides job readiness and job training to transition Cincinnatians out of poverty. The program will focus on residents in Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs). The Hand Up Initiative recipients are tasked with providing individuals with wrap-around services for the purpose of removing barriers to employment. Those services include, but are not limited to, transportation, childcare, and employment counseling. Following completion of the Hand Up curriculum, participants receive employment counseling and coaching to facilitate appropriate job placement.	Department of Community and Economic Development	Katrina Stallworth - Department of Community and Economic Development	Katrina.Stallworth@cincinnati-oh.gov	Program Delivered by Multiple Entities: Urban League, Cincinnati Works, IKRON, and Mercy Neighborhood Ministries	Varies; Each partner organization has separate intake process on a rolling basis. Contact agency directly.
Workforce Development						
Youth and Young Adult Employment Program	The Youth and Young Adult Employment Program trains youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 in the areas of workplace etiquette and basic work skills by utilizing workshops, presentations, and on-the-job experiences. The program provides recipients with opportunities to explore their interests and career options in Police Department, Fire Department, and Cincinnati Recreation Commission.	Cincinnati Recreation Commission	Brandon Elliot - Cincinnati Recreation Commission	Brandon.Elliott@cincinnati-oh.gov	Focus on Workforce Development and Youth Services	Youth applications posted January - March.

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

March 4, 2026

To: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

202601034

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Presentation – Budget Basics and Leveraged Support**

Attached is the presentation on Budget Basics and Leveraged Support for the Budget and Finance Committee Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
John Brazina, Assistant City Manager
Cathy B. Bailey, Interim Assistant City Manager

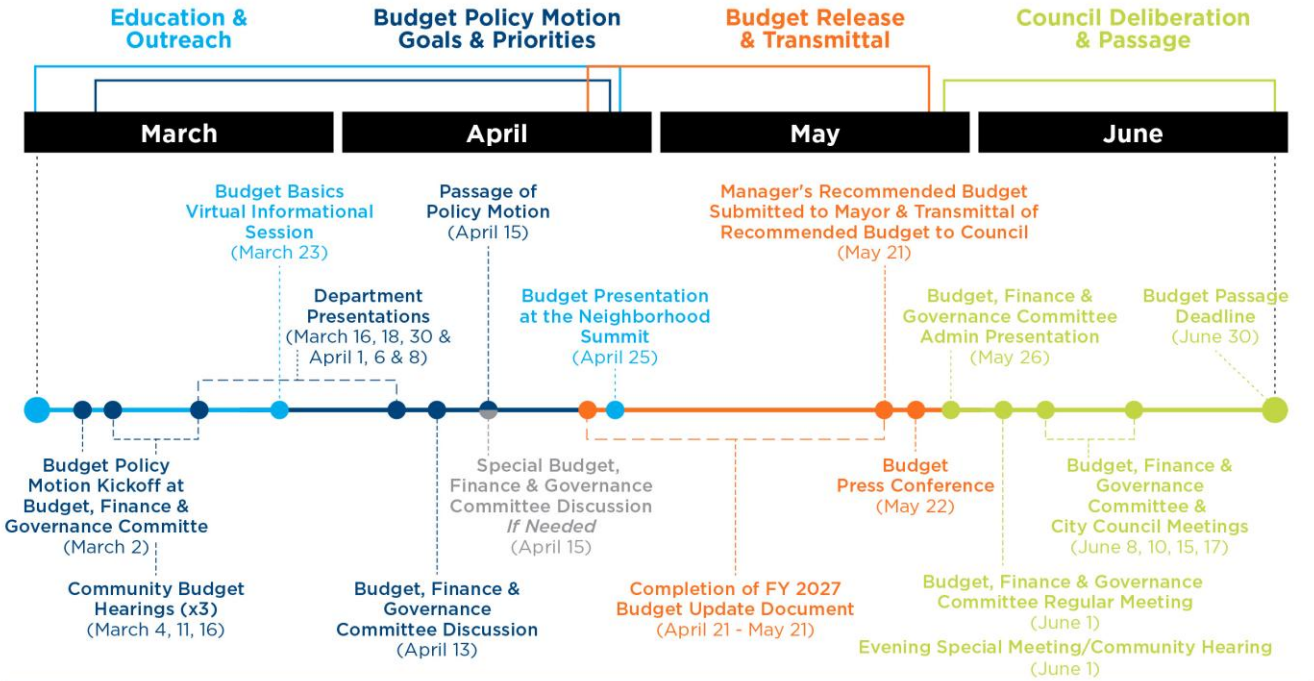
FY 2027 Budget Update:
Budget Policy Motion Goals & Priorities

Budget Basics and Leveraged Support Funding Process

FY 2026 Strategic Priorities

- PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH
- GROWING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
- THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS
- FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY
- EXCELLENT & EQUITABLE SERVICE DELIVERY

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET UPDATE SCHEDULE



For additional information, visit cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/budget-engagement

Overall Budget Strategy

- **Pass a structurally balanced budget**
  - Revenues ≥ Expenditures
- **Expand the tax base**
  - Economic development and neighborhood investment are focal points
  - Recruit and retain jobs

Operating Budget

Approved FY 2026 All Funds Budget

($ in Millions)	Approved FY 2024	Approved FY 2025 Update	Approved FY 2026	From Approved FY 2025 Update $ Change	From Approved FY 2025 Update % Change	Approved FY 2027
Operating Budget						
General Fund[1][2]	$504.1	$527.0	$548.0	$21.0	4.0%	$548.1
Restricted Funds	$804.2	$783.4	$739.5	-$43.9	-5.6%	$758.3
Subtotal Operating Budget	$1,308.3	$1,310.4	$1,287.5	-$22.9	-1.7%	$1,306.4
Capital Budget						
General Capital Budget	$76.5	$105.1	$136.0	$30.9	29.4%	$117.1
Restricted Funds Capital	$196.1	$323.5	$571.9	$248.4	76.8%	$289.9
Special Revenue/Matching Capital	$37.5	$191.8	$71.4	-$120.4	-62.8%	$30.4
Subtotal Capital Budget	$310.0	$620.5	$779.3	$158.8	25.6%	$437.4
Total All Funds Budget	**$1,618.3**	**$1,930.9**	**$2,066.8**	**$135.9**	**7.0%**	**$1,743.8**

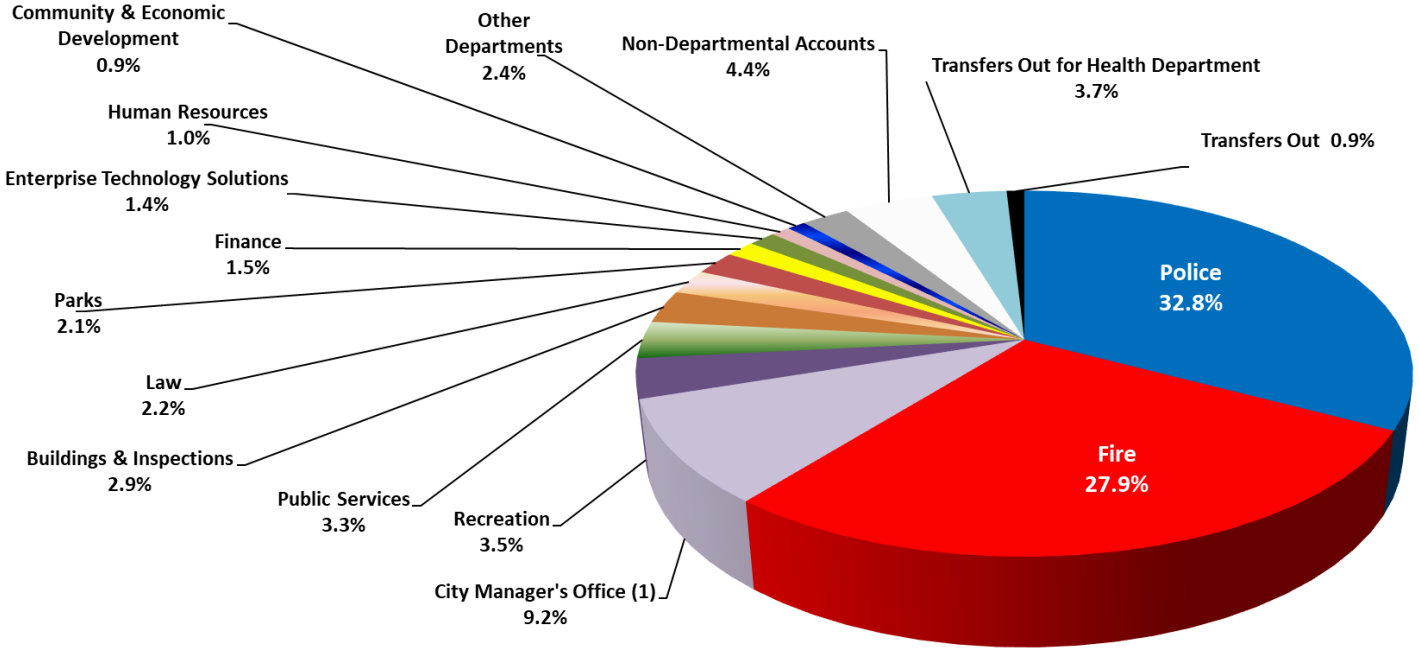
[1]The Approved FY 2024 and Approved FY 2025 Update General Fund Budget amounts do not include $20.5 million and $21.3 million respectively in Health Department funding that is transferred out to the Cincinnati Health District Fund. Additionally, the Approved FY 2024 and Approved FY 2025 Update General Fund Budget amounts do not include $4.4 million and $5.1 million respectively in transfers out for debt service and to other funds. The Approved FY 2024 General Fund Budget amount does not include $2.1 million in transfers out to the balance sheet reserve account for Financial Freedom Initiatives and $100,000 in transfers out to the General Capital Budget for lighting of the Wasson Way Trail. The Approved FY 2025 Budget Update General Fund Budget amount does not include a net $16.7 million in net transfers out to the General Capital Budget.

[2]The Approved FY 2026 and FY 2027 General Fund Budget amounts do not include $21.4 million and $22.4 million respectively in Health Department funding that is transferred out to the Cincinnati Health District Fund. Additionally, the Approved FY 2026 and FY 2027 General Fund Budget amounts do not include $5.0 million and $5.1 million respectively in transfer out for debt service and to other funds.

FY 2026 General Fund Revenue - $569.5 million

*Does not include $5.0 million in transfers in, which would increase General Fund Resources to $574.5 million.

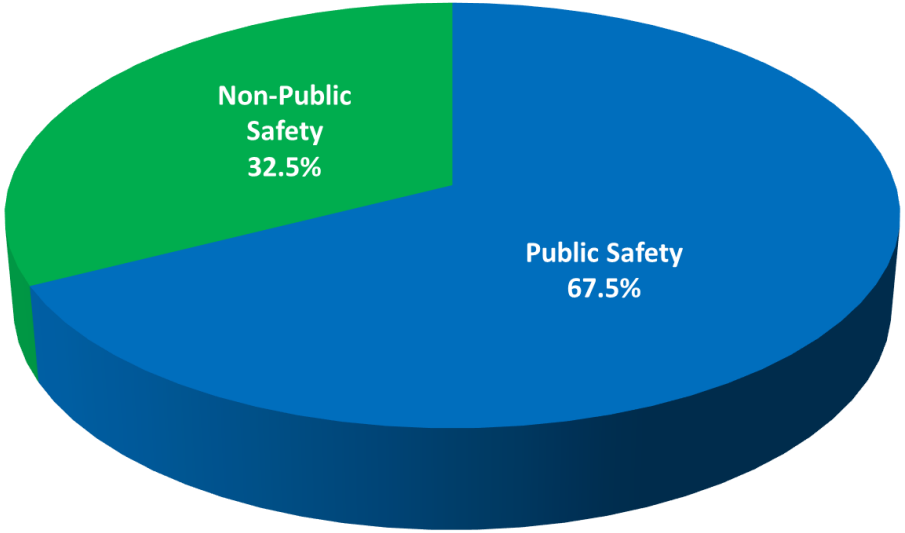
OPERATING BUDGET
General Fund Expenditures – $574.5 million



*Other Departments include Transportation and Engineering, City Council, City Planning & Engagement, Economic Inclusion, Citizen Complaint Authority, Office of the Mayor, and Clerk of Council.
(1) CMO includes the Emergency Communications Center

OPERATING BUDGET
General Fund Expenditures*

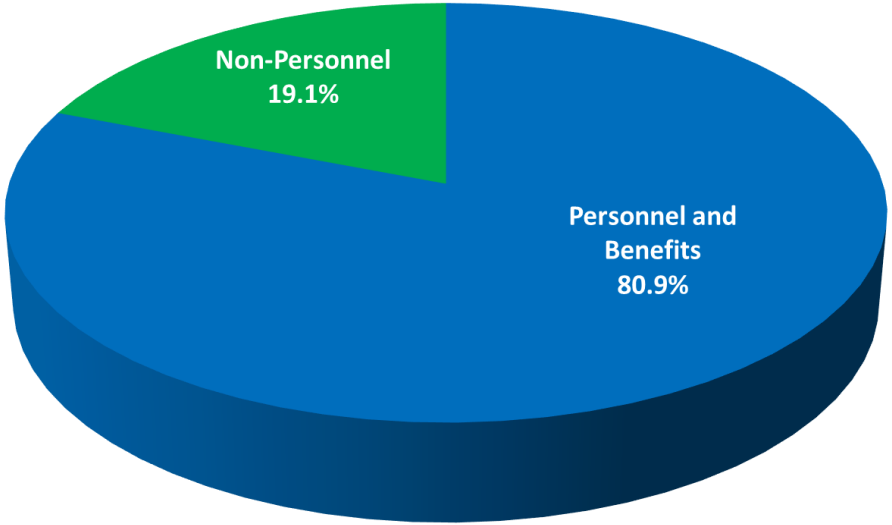
Where does the money go?
Public Safety and Non-Public Safety



*The Transfer Out for the Health Department is reflected here based on the budgeted expenses for the Health Department within these categories. Non-Departmental Accounts are not included.

OPERATING BUDGET
General Fund Expenditures*

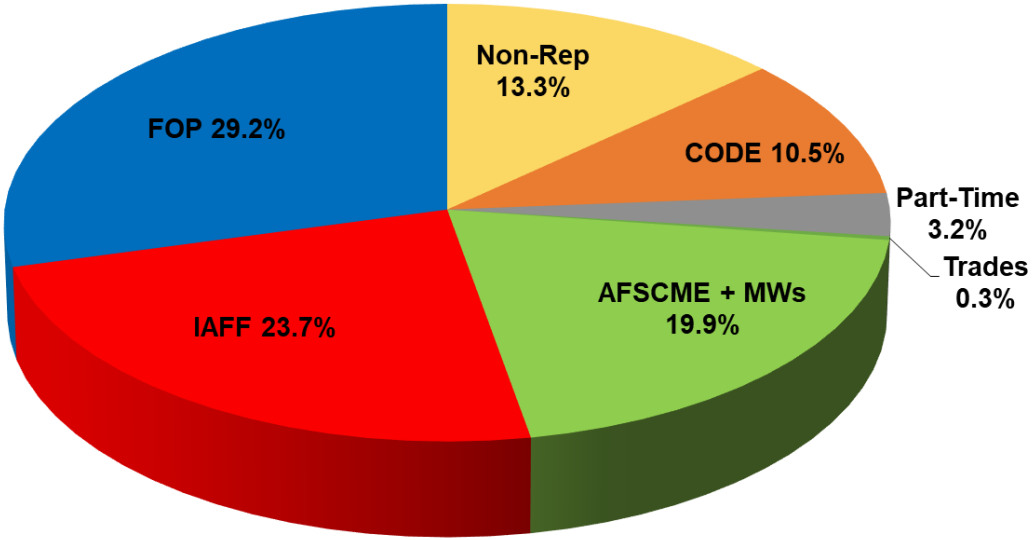
Where does the money go?
Personnel and Non-Personnel



*The Transfer Out for the Health Department is reflected here based on the budgeted expenses for the Health Department within these categories

OPERATING BUDGET
General Fund Staffing*

Personnel expenses represent 80.9% of the General Fund Budget with 83.6% of employees represented by labor contracts.



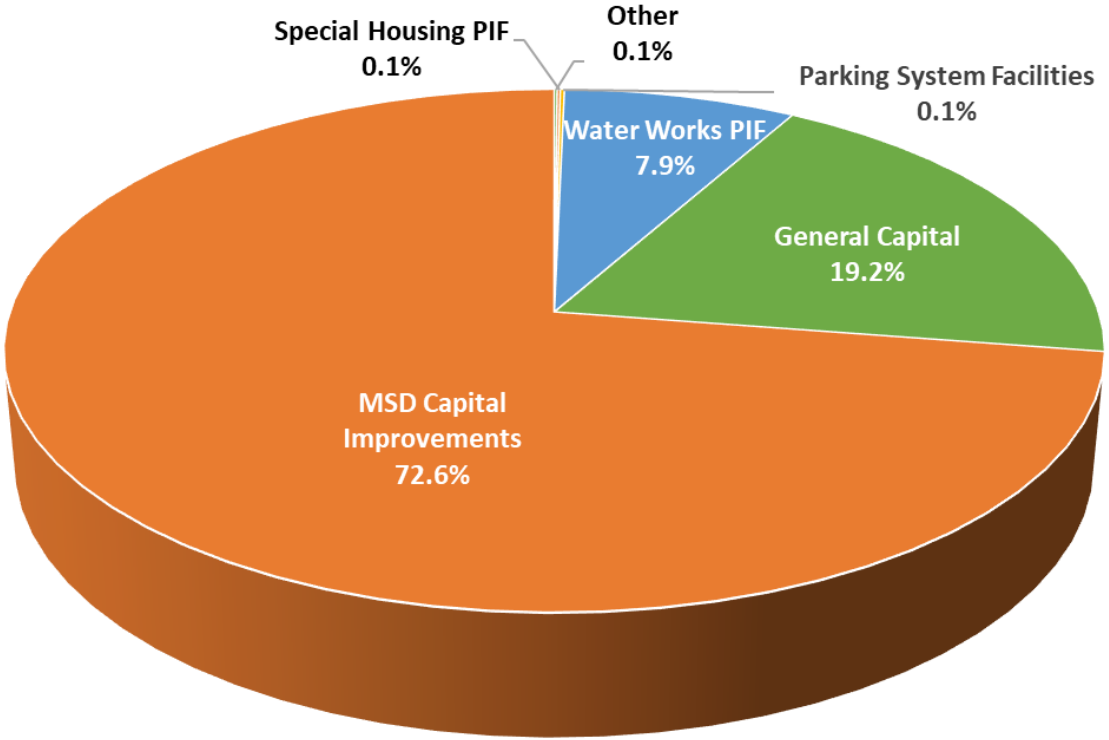
*The Health Department FTEs budgeted as part of the Transfer Out are included within these categories.

Projected FY 2027 Budget Update General Fund Deficit = $29.5 million

- General Fund Budget Reduction Amount = 5.1%
- The General Fund deficit will be closed by a combination of revenue increases and/or expenditure reductions.

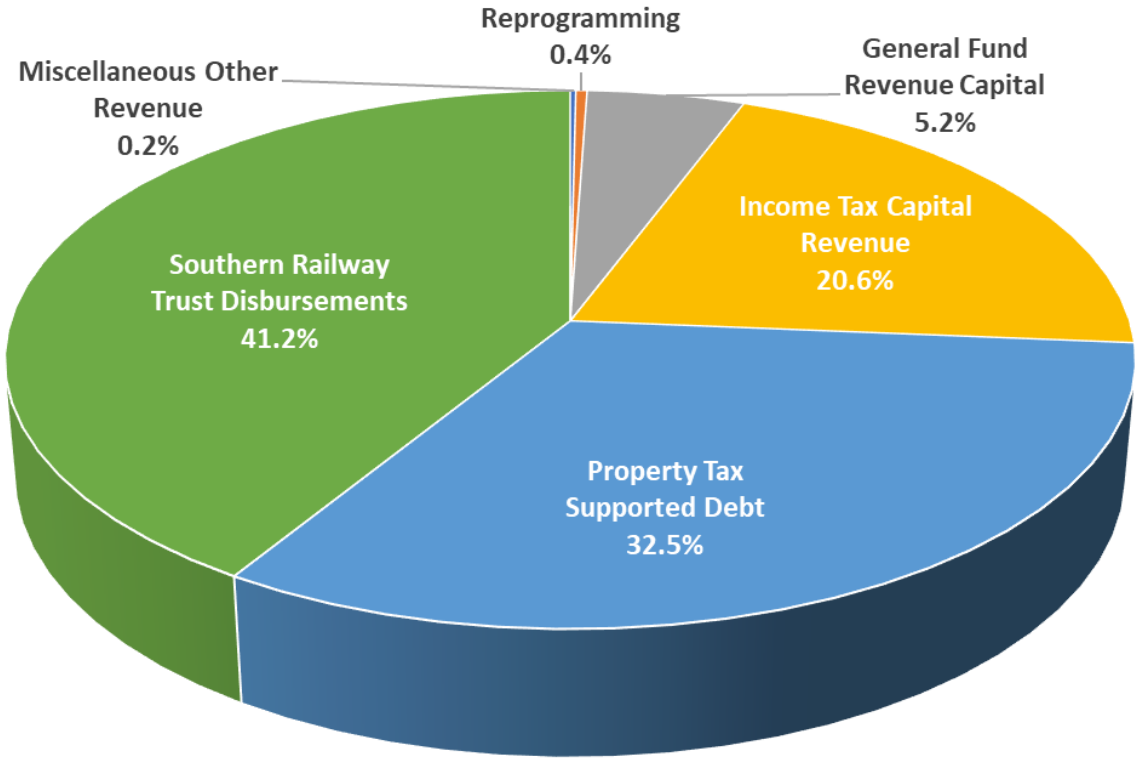
Capital Budget

Approved FY 2026 All Funds Capital Budget

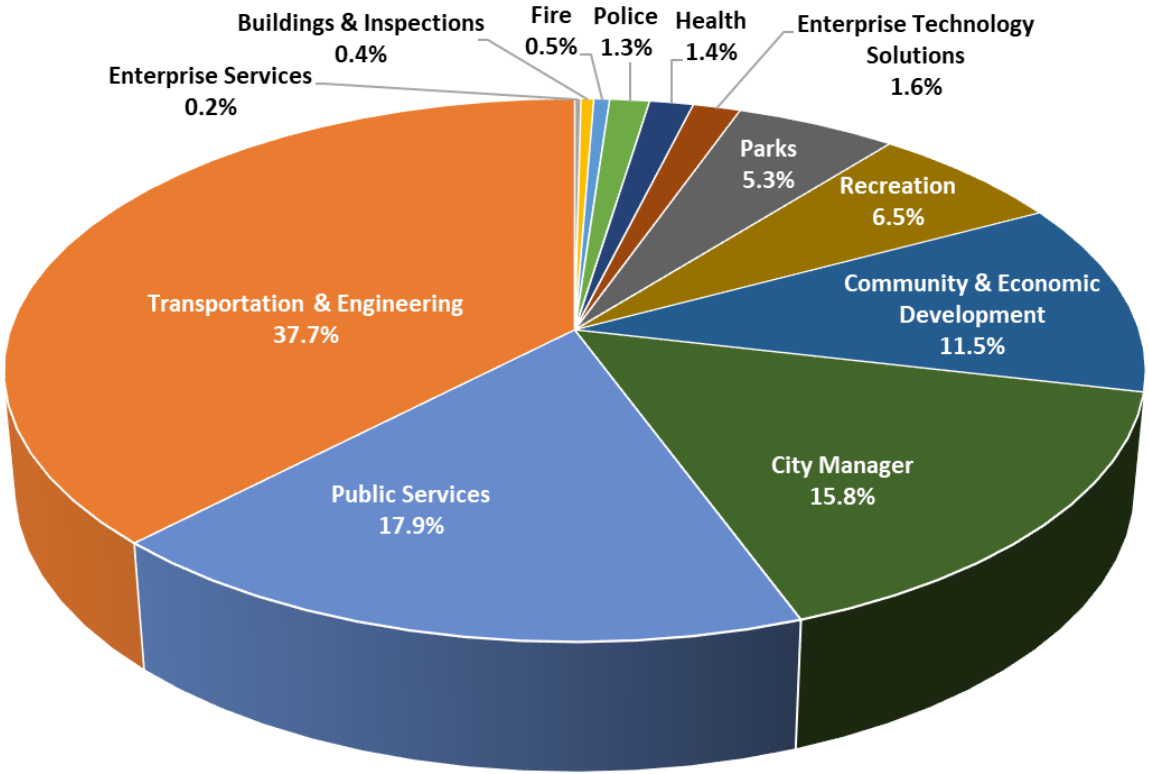


"Other" includes the following funds: Telecommunications Services, Stormwater Management, and Convention Center.
Individually, each of these funds consist of less than 0.05% of the FY 2026 All Funds Capital Budget. This chart does not include Grant Funds.

General Capital Resources – $136.0 million



General Capital Expenditures – $136.0 million



Approved FY 2026 Capital Budget: Cincy on Track

- The Approved FY 2026 Capital Budget includes $56.0 million in Cincinnati Southern Railway (CSR) Infrastructure Trust disbursements. This is a 91% increase from FY 2025. Funding from this source can only be used on existing City infrastructure projects.

- The Approved FY 2026 CSR Infrastructure Trust disbursement allocation by department is:

  - Transportation & Engineering $34.5 million
  - Recreation 7.9 million
  - Parks 7.2 million
  - Public Services 6.4 million

  Total: $56.0 million

- The Health Department is being provided with other capital resources for their facility needs, outside of the Cincy on Track investments.

Leveraged Support

Introduction to Leveraged Support

Definition:

- Leveraged support is financial support from the City of Cincinnati to an external organization:

  1) as general operating support to fund their work in the City or
  2) as funding for a specific program aimed at addressing a public need in the City

- This does not include City funding of third parties to perform elements of City Operations — managing city-owned assets or programs.

Eligibility Criteria

Minimum eligibility criteria and request parameters are as follows:

- **The applicant must be an existing organization** that has a three-year track record and must provide three years of audited financial statements or three years of filed federal tax returns and must not be debarred from contracting or subcontracting with the City.
  - Start-up organizations are not eligible to apply and should instead apply under the City's Boots on the Ground program (https://www.gcfdn.org/rfp/)
  - Applications requesting funding for new programs of existing organizations are acceptable.
  - Capital projects are not eligible for funding under this initiative. The focus is to support operational and programmatic expenses that directly impact Cincinnati residents by addressing a public need or service gap.4
- **Funding requests should be between $50,000 and $500,000.**
  - Only in extraordinary circumstances will an award be granted in excess of $500,000.

Funding Categories

Each category is designed to show priorities within the community and how the City is addressing these needs.

1. **Arts**: Initiatives that promote, enhance, and provide access to the arts and cultural activities.

2. **Environment**: Initiatives that protect and enhance the natural environment, promote sustainability, and address climate change.

3. **Equity and Inclusion**: Initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within communities and organizations.

The **Economic Development and Neighborhood Support** category is no longer part of the competitive Leveraged Support application process. Additional funding opportunities related to this area will be announced at a later date.

Online Application

The online application can be found on the City's website:

https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/leveraged-support/

Applications are being accepted from March 2nd through April 10th.

- Questions about the application process can be directed to:
  - Tonia Smith, City Manager's Office
  - Tonia.Smith@cincinnati-oh.gov / 513-352-5361
- FY 2027 Award Notifications
  - Applicants will be notified of award decisions in early August 2026.
- FY 2027 Funding Period
  - Funding will apply to work conducted between October 1, 2026, and September 30, 2027.
  - Organizations should plan proposed activities and budgets to align with this funding period.

Questions? Comments?

Please visit our websites:

https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/

https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/finance/