Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation

CDC Leadership Program

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
GRADUATE GRANT PROGRAM
GRANT GUIDELINES 2027

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the CDC Leadership Program Graduate Grant is to assist and support three CDCLP graduates and their CDCs or non-profit organizations with organizational capacity building efforts. Building off the CDCLP curriculum sessions, these grant funds will be used to make an impact in the neighborhood served by the applicant's CDC.

Applicants for the CDCLP Graduate Grant may request up to $50,000 in support of leadership efforts towards a new project or an existing project that is currently serving the residents and community. There will be up to three $50,000 grants awarded.

Grant Applicant Requirements:

- The purpose of the project and the capacity area that it targets
- A detailed action plan with specific objectives and strategies, and a measurable outcomes metric for the project.
- A clearly articulated timeline that tracks the progress toward achieving the measurable outcomes
- A demonstration of sustainability for the project after the life of the grant award
- A demonstration of how a new project will positively impact the community
- Successfully interviewing with the Grant Panel Reviewers
- Committing to a grant match from your CDC of $5,000 (10%) and certifying the commitment in the grant application
- Demonstrating a detailed maintenance of effort if seeking support for an existing project

Post-Grant Obligations:

- Carrying out the project in the manner proposed, or if a shift is inevitable, immediately communicating this to CDCLP
- Providing quarterly reports to CDCLP
- Preparing a Final Report using a form provided by CDCLP
- Participating in a Grant Exit Interview

ELIGIBILITY

CDCLP graduates who are in good standing and have graduated from the program are encouraged to apply for the CDCLP Graduate Grant. All grants will be made to a CDC currently serving in Cleveland or a surrounding suburb. **Only ONE grant application per CDC is permitted (e.g., If more than one staff member is a graduate of CDCLP only one grant request may be submitted on behalf of said CDC).**

In the interest of using CDCLP funds for the greatest possible community impact, the following items are **not** eligible for funding:

- Speaking Fees
- Honorariums
- Travel Expenses
- Subscription or Membership Fees
- Stipends
- Salaries – over the 10% cap

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

No later than 5pm on Thursday, November 16, 2027, please return the completed CDCLP Participant Grant Application via JotForm.

LINK TO JOTFORM

EVALUATION PROCESS

Once the submission period is closed the CDCLP team will conduct a pre-screening of all applications to ensure they are complete and meet basic eligibility requirements, followed by a review of all proposals. Selected applicants will be invited for a 30-minute

interview by the CDCLP Grant Panel Review Committee. **Those interviews will take place in early December 2026.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the completeness and clarity of the information provided in the written application, the proposed impact on the community, as well as the grant competence shown by the applicant in the interview. Reviewers will assess the community impact of the project and whether the specific goals can be accomplished in the given timeframe with the proposed budget. Reviewers will also assess the project sustainability (whether the proposed project has the capacity to be maintained and to continue meeting the needs of the community) as well as the appropriateness of each budget according to the goals outlined above and the priorities defined below for this grant.

NOTIFICATION OF GRANT RECIPIENT

The grant recipient(s) will be notified in December 2026.

PRIORITIES

CDCLP prioritizes funding that is a direct benefit to neighborhood citizens. You can apply to receive funding for one priority area or a combination of priorities. Our specific priority areas are:

1. **Capacity Building Grants – Community Programs and Projects**
    - Strategic Neighborhood Outreach and Engagement Activities (e.g., Block Clubs, Neighborhood Celebrations, Community Youth Sports Teams, etc.)
    - Creation of Resident Access Points (e.g., A community meeting space inside your organization that can be utilized by neighborhood residents and stakeholders)
    - Community Pride Projects (e.g., Murals, Community Art Installations, Neighborhood History Projects, Pocket Parks, Gateways and Signage, etc.)
2. **Capacity Building Grants – Operational and Organizational**
    - Profile Raising Efforts (e.g., Communication, Marketing and Brand Development or Improvement; Website Development or Improvement; Information Technology Improvement; etc.)
    - Property Improvements that provide significant ongoing enhancement to the ability of CDCLP Graduates to meet the needs of their community and neighborhood residents (e.g., New Locks on Building Doors; Updated Furniture; New Equipment for Youth Programs; etc.)
    - Board Development and Training (e.g., Board Governance Training and

Support; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Training; etc.)

- Fiscal Management System Improvement (e.g., Upgrading the Financial Management Software; Financial Consultation; etc.)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please follow directions, fill out the application completely and observe the word limits where noted. Typewritten applications are required. **Applicants considering a request for enhanced technology should complete the additional questions listed in the Technology Request Section of the application.** If you have any questions or need assistance in the process, you may contact Molly Crawford, Graduate Support Manager at, mcrawford@mandelfoundation.org or (567) 241-6682.