



Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

202601227

April 2, 2026

Memo for Proposed Budget Priorities for FY '27

WE recommend the following budget priorities that will allow our youth and adults to not only survive, but thrive. The attached list includes transformative initiatives for youth, workforce development for youth and adults, pathways to eliminate gun violence, repairing of damage from past systemic discrimination, increasing homeownership and wealth building, resources for the Department of Opportunity and Resident Services (DOORS), support for events that build a sense of community and cohesion across our city, and resources to catalyze development and city growth. *See Attachment A.*

Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

**BUDGET REQUESTS
FY 2027**

| Priority | Organization | Amount requested | C/O* | Purpose |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Youth | | | | |
| | Cincinnati Youth Employment | \$ 1,000,000.00 | O | Phase 1 of recreating CCY (rebranded as <i>Cincinnati</i> Committee on Youth): Increase Cincinnati's capacity to include year-round jobs for youth as well as workshops on skill building, financial literacy, post-high school planning, conflict resolution, healthy habits, etc. <i>Citizens</i> Committee on Youth ran for 50 years and ended in 2007. In addition to additional funding for youth jobs, City will work with the business community to secure youth jobs outside of City Hall. Phase 2 in the rebirth of CCY will be to add mentorships through "We Mentor Cincy (led by the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative), the Divine 9, and others. |
| | Boys and Girls Club | \$ 350,000.00 | C | Renovate and Create Teen Center Avondale |
| | Youth Sports Commission | TBD | O | An over-arching commission with voluntary membership that would train coaches and provide education for families about de-escalation, conflict resolution, code of conduct; provide supplemental funds for sports gear; help w/ finding and funding playing fields |
| | KidFuture CPS (Formerly Activities BEYOND THE CLASSROOM/ABC) | \$ 400,000.00 | O | CPS Afterschol programming. Funds needed for : search platform for parents and youth to find programs; expansion of grantwritng capacity, marketing for corporate funding |
| | Wesley Chapel Mission (Janine Shelborne) | \$ 574,580.00 | O | Personnel for youth programming: 4 f/tdirectors, 9 p/t teachers, 3 f/t coordinators to service and Discovery Trips to venues such as the Zoo, Indianapolis Children's Museum, Cincinnati Children's Museum, and Kings Island. |
| | Expansion of "Rec at Night" to afterschool rec pilot program at Hughes High School | \$ 500,000.00 | O | Joint project with City Council and CPS |
| | Lighthouse Youth Services | \$ 150,000.00 | O | Outreach/ Prevention team, Sheakley Center |
| | Women Helping Women | \$ 100,000.00 | O | Violence Prevention Education in 15 schools; 2024-25: Served 986 students |
| Workforce Development | | | | |
| | Hispanic Chamber | \$ 200,000.00 | O | Small Business suport |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | MidWest Con | \$ 100,000.00 | | Conference and connectors with AI workforce development strategies |
| | Small Business Fund | | O | Help small businesses to curvive and thrive with services similar to the GROW AVONDALE Program developed by LISC in October 2025. |
| | Npower Tech Training | \$ 99,000.00 | O | Partner w/ Microsoft, Google & other tech companies; free training & certification for High School grads; result: high-paying jobs in tech field. Started in NY, spread to Texas and elsewhere; currently officew in Dayton, OH. Want to open office in Cincinncati. |
| | CincyTech | \$ 250,000.00 | C | State matches city's investmant to create more tech jobs. |
| | MORTAR | \$ 50,000.00 | O | "Ongoing Excellence": Job readiness, entrepreneurship; Ecoomic Dev. |
| | Represent513 (for small businesses in OTR) | \$ 250,000.00 | O | Jasmine Coaston's Assistance for OTR Small Businesses. Subject Matter Expert (SME) coaching for small businesses (NOTE: Grants of up to \$10K go to businesses from capital accts) |
| | Black Art Speaks | \$ 150,000.00 | | Jobs for artists |
| | Expungement Clinics | \$ 400,000.00 | O | Urban League (\$300,000); City w/ OJPC, Office of Re-Entry, Ham. Co. Library (\$100,000) |
| | Building Futures | \$ 300,000.00 | O | Urban League and Building Trades' 12-week appreticeship program funding for two additional co-horts of 25 individuals per class to lead to good-paying union jobs in the trades |
| | City Gospel Mission | \$ 250,000.00 | C | Van for Workers Who are Living on the Streets. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and City Gospel Mission partner to pick up unhoused people, give them public services-type work, and pay them. |
| Eliminating Gun Violence | | | | |
| | CincySafe Community Violence Intervention Program | \$ 375,000.00 | | Cincinnati-based program modeled on Advance Peace, a proven, data-driven model that has significantly reduced gun violence in neighborhoods across the country for more than 10 years. |

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| | Boots on the Ground | \$ 500,000.00 | O | Fund for start-up businesses to address violence and other community needs for a maximum amount of \$25,000 per group. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation raises additional funds for BOTG and assists small organizations in applying for non-profit status. |
| | Safe & Clean Fund | \$ 500,000.00 | O | Fund for organizations that target blight and violence is managed by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. There is no cap, but distributions tend to be \$70,000 or less. |
| | Whitney Strong | \$ 50,000.00 | O | Stop the Bleed Program: crisis training, distribution of gunlocks, distribution of medical supplies, and other services. |
| Homeownership/Wealth Building | | | | |
| | Cincinnati Real Estate Repairs Program (RERP) - home repairs, homeownership, residential and commercial purchasing help, delinquent property tax help | \$ 5,000,000.00 | C | Home repairs, homeownership, residential and commercial purchasing help, delinquent property taxes (<i>HomeSafe Program reboot</i>), See Memo |
| Dept. of Opportunity and Resident Services (DOORS) | | | | |
| | Mobile Market (Office of Opportun) | \$ 260,000.00 | C | Model in Lexington partners w/ Kroger & a non-profit to go to various food deserts on the same schedule every week. Could add neighborhood farmer's markets in good weather. |
| | NSP increase: \$12,000/community council (increase from \$10K) | \$ 681,000.00 | O | Insurance costs and programming costs have increased; many have started or are trying to start a youth council |
| | Invest in Neighborhoods | \$ 100,000.00 | O | Personnel (2 hires to create staff of 3) |
| | Opportunity Dashboard for Office of Opportunity/DORS | \$ 25,000.00 | O | |
| | Buy the Building, Vacant to Vibrant, Community Investment Trusts | TBD | C | Three recommended programs from VM Kearney's Office |

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| Special Events | | | | |
| | LADD | \$ 50,000.00 | O | Disability Pride Month activities |
| | Cincinnati Music Festival | \$ 50,000.00 | O | CMF has an annual economic impact of more than \$107 million. 85% of attendees are tourists. Additional revenue would provide capacity for more A-List artists to increase attendance, and therefore, revenue for the City. |
| | Unity Fund | \$ 100,000.00 | O | Community Building/Neighborhood events by small groups and/or community councils |
| Capital Projects | | | | |
| | 8K for Town Hall Flats (Westwood) | \$ 2,500,000.00 | C | |
| | Imperial Theatre | \$ 500,000.00 | | Development of central structure to start growth and development of Mohawk neighborhood |
| | ArtsVille | \$ 250,000.00 | C | Renovations |
| | Playhouse in the Park | \$ 380,000.00 | C | \$200K for new roof and HVAC for Shelterhouse Theatre; \$180K for Production Facility Building on Gilbert Avenue (HVAC & parking lot paving) |
| | Pig Works | \$ 1,000,000.00 | C | For their Campus in Walnut Hills; New headquarters for Flying Pig Marathon, scholarships, other races and programs |
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| Other Requests | | | | |
| | Center for Addiction Treatment (CAT HOUse) | \$ 125,000.00 | O | Operating funds needed. |
| | | | | |
| *C/O = Capital or Operating Funds | | | | |