



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
4th FLOOR

MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Sunny M. Simon, Chair | Dist. 11
Robert E. Schleper, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 6
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Pernel Jones, Jr. | Dist. 8
Dale Miller | Dist. 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 20, 2026 MEETING

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0149: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$50,000, to Food Strong for infrastructure improvements at the Superior Avenue Community Farm from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
- b) R2026-0150: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to Ohio City, Inc. for the Field House Upgrade Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
- c) R2026-0152: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation for the School-to-Prison Pipeline Prevention Program from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

6. PRESENTATION

- a) The Department of Consumer Affairs: Making a Difference for Residents

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Sunny M. Simon, Chair | Dist. 11
Robert E. Schleper, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 6
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Pernel Jones, Jr. | Dist. 8
Dale Miller | Dist. 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Schleper called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Schleper asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Schleper, Jones and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee members Simon and Houser were absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 22, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0122: A Resolution making an award to College Now Greater Cleveland in the amount of \$800,000.00 from the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Fund for Component Two of the Cuyahoga County Educational Assistance Program for the period ending 6/30/2031; authorizing the County Executive to execute the contract and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Robert Durham, Chief Success Officer for College Now Greater Cleveland; and Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0122. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Messrs. Durham and McAleer pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Miller with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2026-0122 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- b) R2026-0142: A Resolution supporting the City of East Cleveland's application for funding from Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in the Caledonia Ravine Restoration in the City of East Cleveland; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Meghan Chaney, Senior Planner; and Mr. Jeremy Hinte, Principal for OHM Advisors, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0142. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Chaney and Mr. Hinte pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2026-0142 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- c) R2026-0143: A Resolution supporting West Creek Conservancy's application for funding from the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in Irishtown Bend Park Phase II in the City of Cleveland; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Chaney and Mr. Derek Schafer, Executive Director of West Creek Conservancy, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0143. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Chaney and Mr. Schafer pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2026-0143 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice-Chairman Schleper adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0149

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$50,000, to Food Strong for infrastructure improvements at the Superior Avenue Community Farm from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$50,000 to Food Strong for infrastructure improvements at the Superior Avenue Community Farm; and

WHEREAS, Food Strong estimates approximately 3,000-4,000 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, Food Strong estimates the total cost of the project is \$86,000; and

WHEREAS, Food Strong is estimating the start date of the project will be July 2026 and the project will be completed by June 2027; and

WHEREAS, Food Strong requested \$50,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$50,000 to Food Strong to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 to Food Strong from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for infrastructure improvements at the Superior Avenue Community Farm.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee:

Committee(s) Assigned:

Journal _____
_____, 20____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Food Strong	
Address of Requesting Entity: 1901 Train Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44113	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 6527 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44103	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 7	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Sara Continenza, Founder/Executive Director	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: n/a	
Email: sara@foodstrong.org	Phone: 216.640.0342
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 83-1580187	Date: 5/11/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

This project will support critical infrastructure improvements at the Superior Avenue Community Farm (SACF), a 2.85-acre site in Cleveland's St. Clair-Superior neighborhood being developed into a hub for food access, workforce development, and community programming. These upgrades are necessary to ensure safe operations, expand access to essential community services, and enable the site to fully serve residents in an under-resourced neighborhood.

This project will fund essential upgrades needed to safely and effectively operate the site, including expansion of the electrical system (electrical upgrades, engineering, and permitting). Currently, the site relies on limited residential electrical capacity, which restricts programming, food production, and the ability to host workforce and community activities. For example, we need to be able to plug in our outdoor cooler to safely preserve the fresh produce we are cultivating to sell to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, but we don't currently have enough power to do so. Upgrading from 100- to 240-amp service will allow the site to support refrigeration, equipment, lighting, and future program expansion.

Funds will also support structural stabilization of the church building to prevent further deterioration and ensure safe future use. This includes addressing water intrusion through roof drain clearing, sealing coping caps, and installing protective membrane systems, as well as targeted masonry repairs. These improvements are necessary to preserve the building as a future site for workforce training, program storage, and community-based activities.

Grant dollars will also support minor safety improvements to the front steps of the Pentecostal Church of New Antioch (PCNA), a close community partner that hosts programming and serves shared community members.

These improvements are critical to transitioning SACF and our valued partners from early-stage activation into a fully operational community asset. They directly support community recovery by expanding access to food, workforce opportunities, and safe gathering space in a neighborhood disproportionately impacted by economic instability and health disparities. By investing in infrastructure, this project removes barriers to service delivery and strengthens long-term community resilience.

Project Start Date: July 2026

Project End Date: June 2027

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served: This project will serve residents of Cleveland's St. Clair–Superior neighborhood and surrounding communities, including youth, families, and individuals with limited access to fresh food, workforce opportunities, and safe community spaces.

How many people will be served annually: Approximately 3,000–4,000 individuals annually through a combination of school programming, workforce development initiatives, volunteer engagement, and community-based wellness events and workshops.

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: Yes. The majority of participants served are from low- to moderate-income communities. SACF is located in a neighborhood with high rates of poverty and limited access to fresh food. The project will increase access to free or low-cost programming, fresh food distribution, workforce opportunities, and community resources.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

This project builds on ongoing partnerships with Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), Case Western Reserve University, and local community organizations. SACF is designed as a central hub that connects existing programming, including school-based education, workforce development, and food access initiatives, into one coordinated site. This summer, we are hosting 10 high school students through an 8-week Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Summer Academy, where participants are paid to gain hands-on experience in agriculture, food systems, and environmental stewardship.

We are also offering 3 Care-A-Van community wellness events onsite during the food pantry distribution. We need proper electricity to execute our programming, and we will require use of the church for supply storage.

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be: The project will improve environmental conditions by supporting the transition of underutilized land into productive green space. Electrical upgrades will enable more efficient operations, while site improvements will support urban agriculture, reduce heat island effects, and increase green infrastructure.

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: The collective impact of this initiative is extensive. This project is a foundational investment that enables future phases of SACF development, including expanded food production, workforce training programs, and community events. By stabilizing infrastructure and utilities, it unlocks the site's full potential as a long-term community asset and creates a model for adaptive reuse of vacant properties in Cleveland. Our ultimate goal is to use the site as a training location for residents from across Northeast Ohio to come together to learn valuable agriculture, environmental stewardship, nutrition, and other food-systems skills to utilize in their own communities. By

supporting our partner, the PCNA will continue to support vital community programming and their work with partners such as Food Strong.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

\$8.37 million for the entire site restoration (5-year, 3-phase endeavor)

\$86,000 for the specified projects outlined in this application

ARPA funding will support a defined portion of critical infrastructure costs within this broader project scope.

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

- \$25,000 from the Ringen Fund
- \$4,000 from the Great Lakes Fund
- \$13,500 from EPA
- \$67,000 from Nestle
- \$30,000 from the Tecovas Foundation
- \$20,000 from the Bicknell Fund
- \$30,000 from our annual gala
- \$5,000 from Akron Community Foundation
- \$11,000 from the O'Neill Foundation
- \$5,000 from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture
- \$10,000 from our Vacant Lot Restoration Initiative
- \$35,000 from County Council Members Simon and Sweeney
- \$11,000 from the Tom and Diane Tyrrell Foundation
- \$1,000 from the Garson Family Foundation
- \$15,000 from the St. Luke's Foundation
- \$17,000 from the Frohring Foundation
- \$15,000 from Cross Country Mortgage
- \$35,000 from Private Donations

TOTAL TO DATE: \$349,000

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$50,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

Food Strong is developing SACF as a self-sustaining community asset with diversified revenue streams. Once operational, the site will generate income through facility rentals, including use of the farmhouse and church for meetings and events, as well as program-based revenue and partnerships. A membership and fee structure for growers and partners will further support ongoing operations.

This project is part of a phased development plan that reduces long-term reliance on grant funding by building earned income opportunities into the site's operations. These improvements will ensure SACF can sustain programming, maintain infrastructure, and continue serving the community for years to come.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Sara Continenza

Signature:



Date: 5/11/2026

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

- [Organizational Insurance Policy](#)
- [Superior Farm Vision Deck](#)
- [2025 Annual Report](#)
- [Care-A-Van 2026 series flier](#)
- [Superior Farm video](#)

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0150

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to Ohio City, Inc. for the Field House Upgrade Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
--	--

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to Ohio City, Inc. for the Field House Upgrade Project; and

WHEREAS, Ohio City, Inc. estimates approximately 133 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, Ohio City, Inc. estimates the total cost of the project is \$20,700; and

WHEREAS, Ohio City, Inc. indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes \$700 from the Kentucky Garden Irrigation Project; and

WHEREAS, Ohio City, Inc. is estimating the start date of the project will be June 2026 and the project will be completed by August 2026; and

WHEREAS, Ohio City, Inc. requested \$20,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$20,000 to Ohio City, Inc. to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 to Ohio City, Inc. from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Field House Upgrade Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter.

Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: May 26, 2026

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal _____
_____, 20____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Ohio City, Inc. 501(c)(3) Organization	
Address of Requesting Entity: 3308 Lorain Ave. Cleveland OH 44113	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: District 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Kentucky Gardens at the SE Corner of West. 38 th St. and Franklin Ave.	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: District 7	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Brandon Collier, Director of Neighborhood Strategy and Outreach, Ohio City, Inc. Gail Long, Steering Committee Member of Kentucky Garden	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: 	
Email: bcollier@ohiocity.org glong@sbcglobal.net	Phone: Collier: 216-781-3222 x 106 Long: 216-272-9115
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 34-1372076	Date: October, 1982

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

FIELD HOUSE UPGRADE: As Fiscal Agent for Kentucky Garden, Ohio City Inc. is submitting this request in the amount of \$20,000 to upgrade the Field House located in the Garden. Kentucky Garden, an organic garden, has been in existence as a community garden since the mid-1970's. Prior to that it was a Cleveland Municipal School District garden and before that served as a community Victory Garden during the Second World War. Today, the Garden is home to over 132 plots gardened by over 133 individuals and families living in Cuyahoga County. The vast majority of gardeners are residents of District 7.

In addition to growing food to feed individuals and families, Kentucky Garden has a large Market Garden that both sells and donates produce each summer and early fall. All sales from the Market Garden are used to support special projects such as replacement and repair of the irrigation system. All donated produce goes to community hunger centers and food distribution locations.

Kentucky Garden is owned by the City of Cleveland, however, the Garden is responsible for all supplies, maintenance and repairs. This request focuses particularly on the replacement of all windows in the Field House as well as replacement of the existing door. Both the windows and the door are falling apart due to rust/exposure to the elements and glass that has been broken over the years. There are at least two (2) windows that have completely dislodged from their frame and the door is showing signs of rust and failure that cannot be repaired. Because the Garden has been unable to repair/replace the windows, the temperature cannot be regulated, rain blows in, we are not confident that we have adequate security and it is often home to birds and their nests. The door to the Field House is often not locked if a gardener is not strong enough to pull it shut. Security becomes a serious issue when the door is not locked. We store over \$10,000 in power equipment as well as several thousand dollars in garden tools in the Field House.

We have received a proposal from Pierce Builders LLC to replace 10 windows with Glass Block including vent panels and to replace the oversized door with a steel door equipped with ADA panic hardware.

We anticipate completing the work during the 2026 Garden Season which runs from April through the end of the year. The Project will be overseen by the Steering Committee of the Garden and in particular the 2-3 members who supervise maintenance work.

Project Start Date: June 1, 2026

Project End Date: August 1, 2026

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served:

133 community gardeners and participants in the Group Gardening program.

How many people will be served annually:

133 community gardeners in addition to participants in the group gardening plots. Additionally, there are many District residents who use the Garden for community events sponsored by the Garden including concerts and Radical Hospitality potluck suppers.

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

Gardeners at Kentucky Garden are from all walks of life, cultures, economic status and races. in addition, we have Group Gardens that include residents of Franklin Plaza (nursing home), Radical Hospitality, whose participants are unhoused, and the Children's Garden, which works with low income children who attend schools in the local community. On a monthly basis during the gardening season, Radical Hospitality sponsors potluck dinners for the low/moderate income community.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

The project will upgrade the field house. Right now, the field house looks o.k. from the outside, but if the project work is not completed, the structure will further deteriorate and eventually the building will not be serviceable and meet the needs of this community garden. Kentucky Garden will be upgrading its irrigation system this season, so both projects will enhance each other. More broadly, the project fits in with upgrades recently made to the adjoining Fairview Park.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: N/A

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

Kentucky Garden has been operational since the mid 1970's and has always been organic providing produce to gardeners and the community,

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

If this grant is approved, it will add momentum to further improve this structure (bathroom and roof in particular) and the Green House, which needs considerable exterior work. This Project will improve the safety and viability of the garden, therefore encouraging more community participation and engagement.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**Total Budget of Project:****\$20,700****Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):****Funds raised for the irrigation system upgrade would be transferred to complete the Field House Upgrade project.****\$700.00 – Kentucky Garden Irrigation Project****Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:****\$20,000****Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:****This project is a one-time Project and any future maintenance work would be paid for by Kentucky Garden.**

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name: *Brandon Collier*

Signature:



Date:

5/13/26

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

1. Kentucky Garden Proposal: Pierce Builders LLC

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0152

Sponsored by: Councilmember Jones	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation for the School-to-Prison Pipeline Prevention Program from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation for the School-to-Prison Pipeline Prevention Program; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation estimates approximately 40-50 youth will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation estimates approximately 9 permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation estimates the total cost of the project is \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation is estimating the start date of the project will be May 1, 2026 and the project will be completed by May 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation requested \$10,000 from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 to the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 to the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the School-to-Prison Pipeline Prevention Program.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public

peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: May 26, 2026

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal _____
_____, 20____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): CLEVELAND REHAB COMMUNITY FUNDING FOUNDATION	
Address of Requesting Entity: 6900 ST. CLAIR AVENUE CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: District 8	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: SAME AS ENTITY ADDRESS	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: SAME AS ENTITY ADDRESS	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Traci A. McCray	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: SAME AS ENTITY ADDRESS	
Email: customerservice@crcfundinfoundation.com	Phone: 216-282-7156
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 99-3558099	Date: 04/17/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / REQUEST DESCRIPTION PAGES 6 – 8

Project Start Date: 05/01/2026

Project End Date:05/31/2026

IMPACT OF PROJECT:	
Who will be served:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11
How many people will be served annually:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11
Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11
How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11
If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11
If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11
If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:	IMPACT OF PROJECT Page 9 - 11

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:	
Total Budget of Project:	FINANCIAL INFORMATION Page 12
Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):	FINANCIAL INFORMATION Page 12
Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:	FINANCIAL INFORMATION Page 12
Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:	FINANCIAL INFORMATION Page 12

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Authorized Agent: Traci A. McCray

Executive Director of Finance for Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation

Signature:



Date:

04/17/2026

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

1. ACTION PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / REQUEST DESCRIPTION

Project Name:

District 8 S.To.P.P.P.P. Initiative
(School-To-Prison Pipeline Prevention Program)

Project Description

The **District 8 S.To.P.P.P.P. Initiative (School-To-Prison Pipeline Prevention Program)** is a targeted, community-based intervention designed to disrupt cycles of youth violence, reduce justice system involvement, and expand economic opportunity pathways for at-risk youth across Cleveland District 8 and surrounding municipalities, including Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, and Newburgh Heights.

This initiative is a **90-day pilot program** led by the Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation, in partnership with Applying Life Lessons Enterprises Inc., supported by an initial **\$10,000 seed investment**. The program serves youth ages 13–24 and integrates violence prevention outreach, trade-based workforce exposure, mentorship, and trauma-informed support into a unified, data-driven strategy.

Why the Project Is Important / Need for the Project

Target communities face persistent challenges including youth violence, economic instability, limited workforce access, and a lack of structured mentorship opportunities. These conditions contribute to increased risk of justice system involvement and perpetuate the **school-to-prison pipeline**.

This project is critical because it:

- Provides **early, preventative intervention** before youth enter the justice system
- Creates **direct pathways to employment** through skilled trade exposure
- Delivers **consistent mentorship and behavioral support**
- Reduces **idle and unsupervised time**, a key driver of youth violence
- Addresses both **immediate risks and long-term socioeconomic outcomes**

By combining prevention, workforce development, and mentorship, the initiative fills a significant service gap within the community.

Project Overview

The initiative is structured around four core components:

1. Community Violence Prevention Outreach

A trained outreach team will conduct street-level engagement, conflict mediation, and crisis intervention using data-informed targeting and community partnerships.

2. Trade-Based Workforce Exposure Programming

Participants will receive hands-on training in high-demand skilled trades such as carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, roofing, and HVAC, including exposure to certifications and apprenticeship pathways.

3. Youth Mentorship & Behavioral Support

Weekly mentorship sessions will focus on personal development, emotional regulation, leadership, and conflict resolution using trauma-informed approaches.

4. Structured Community Engagement Activities

Weekend programming will include leadership development, community improvement projects, and workforce readiness training to provide positive alternatives and reduce risk exposure.

Timeline of Milestones & Project Tracking (90-Day Pilot)

Month 1 – Program Launch & Infrastructure Development

- Launch community outreach and awareness campaign
- Recruit and enroll 40–50 youth participants
- Onboard mentors and outreach personnel
- Establish partnerships with at least three trade professionals
- Finalize program schedule and operations

Milestone:

- ✓ Program fully staffed and participant cohort established

Month 2 – Program Implementation & Engagement

- Initiate weekly mentorship sessions
- Conduct trade workforce exposure workshops
- Deploy violence interruption outreach team
- Begin training for community violence interrupters

Milestone:

- ✓ Full program operations and participant engagement underway

Month 3 – Community Activation & Evaluation

- Host District 8 Youth Engagement Summit
- Facilitate participant presentations and demonstrations
- Collect program data and participant feedback
- Complete final evaluation and impact report
- Submit funding proposals for \$250,000–\$500,000 expansion

Milestone:

- ✓ Pilot completed with measurable outcomes and expansion strategy

Project Tracking & Accountability

Program performance will be tracked through:

- Weekly participant engagement metrics
- Workshop attendance and completion tracking
- Mentorship session documentation

- Outreach activity reporting logs
- Monthly progress reports to the Office of Pernel Jones Jr.
- Final evaluation report measuring outcomes against defined goals

Conclusion

The District 8 S.To.P.P.P.P. Initiative is a **high-impact, scalable pilot program** designed to deliver measurable improvements in youth engagement, violence prevention, and workforce readiness. By leveraging a modest initial investment, the program will establish a proven model capable of securing significant follow-on funding and long-term sustainability.

Project Dates

Project Start Date: May 1, 2026

Project End Date: July 31, 2026

(Adjusted to reflect full 90-day pilot period for accuracy and funding alignment)

IMPACT OF PROJECT

Who will be served:

The District 8 S.To.P.P.P. Initiative serves youth ages 13–24 residing in targeted communities within Cleveland (Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 12) and surrounding municipalities including Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, and Newburgh Heights.

The initiative combines violence prevention outreach, trade-based workforce exposure, mentorship, and trauma-informed support services into a unified strategy aimed at addressing both the root causes and immediate risks associated with youth disengagement, economic instability, and community violence.

How many people will be served annually:

Direct Participants (Youth Ages 13–24):

- Pilot Phase (90 days): 40–50 youth
- Annual Projection (4 cycles per year): **160–200 youth served annually**

Indirect Beneficiaries (Families & Community Members):

300–500 additional individuals annually, including family members, peers, and neighborhood residents

Total Annual Reach:

Approximately 460–700 individuals

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so, how:

Yes.

The initiative is specifically designed to serve low- to moderate-income (LMI) individuals and communities disproportionately impacted by poverty, unemployment, and violence.

Key methods include:

- **No-Cost Participation:** Eliminates financial barriers
- **Targeted Outreach:** Focus on underserved neighborhoods and at-risk youth
- **Workforce Development:** Direct exposure to skilled trades and career pathways
- **Supportive Services:** Mentorship, trauma-informed care, and transportation assistance
- **Community-Based Delivery:** Programs delivered within target neighborhoods

Estimated LMI Participants:

0–50 youth during pilot phase, with the majority of annual participants expected to qualify as LMI

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

The initiative is aligned with existing community violence reduction strategies, workforce development initiatives, and youth engagement efforts across Cuyahoga County. It complements ongoing public safety and prevention programs by providing **early intervention and prevention-focused services**, rather than reactive enforcement measures.

The program strengthens the local ecosystem by:

- Partnering with community-based organizations and workforce professionals
- Supporting existing youth development and violence interruption efforts
- Filling service gaps related to mentorship, job readiness, and structured youth programming
- Aligning with county and state priorities related to violence prevention and economic mobility

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained:

Jobs Created (Pilot Phase):

- 2–3 Program Coordination and Administrative Roles (*Temporary, with potential for permanent expansion*)
- 4–6 Outreach Workers / Violence Interrupters (*Part-time/Temporary*)
- 3–5 Trade Workshop Instructors (*Contract-based*)

Total Estimated Jobs Created: 9–14 positions

Long-Term Outlook:

Upon securing expansion funding, several roles are expected to transition into **permanent full-time positions**, particularly in program coordination, outreach, and training.

Address of Entity:

Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation
154 East Aurora Road, PMB 223
Northfield, Ohio 44067

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

While the primary focus is youth development and violence prevention, the project provides indirect environmental benefits through:

- **Community improvement projects** (neighborhood clean-ups, property beautification)
- Promotion of **sustainable building practices** within trade workshops
- Encouraging youth participation in maintaining safe, clean community spaces

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

This pilot is intentionally designed as a **proof-of-concept model** to secure **\$250,000–\$500,000 in future funding** from state, federal, and private sources.

The initiative will serve as a catalyst by:

- Establishing a **replicable program model** for other districts
- Building a **data-driven case for expanded funding**
- Creating **long-term workforce pipelines** through trade partnerships
- Strengthening collaboration between nonprofits, government, and community stakeholders
- Positioning the program for integration into broader county-wide violence prevention strategies

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget of Project:
\$10,000 (Pilot Phase Budget)

Other Funding Sources of Project:

- Private Donations (via Cleveland Rehab Community Funding Foundation): **\$10,000**

(Additional funding sources are being pursued but not yet secured.)

Total Amount Requested of County Council American Rescue Plan Act Dollars:

\$10,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

Sustainability will be achieved through a multi-layered funding strategy:

- **Grant Funding:** to state and federal programs, including violence prevention and workforce development grants
- **Private Foundations:** Targeted outreach to philanthropic organizations supporting youth and community development
- **Program Partnerships:** Cost-sharing and collaboration with workforce partners and community organizations
- **Fee-for-Service Expansion (Long-Term):** Workforce training components may evolve into revenue-generating programs
- **Demonstrated Outcomes:** Data collected during the pilot will be used to secure **\$250,000–\$500,000 in expansion funding**

This approach ensures that the initial investment leads to a **sustainable, scalable program with long-term community impact**.