



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

# Elevate!

**City of Columbus  
Department of Development**

**Notice of Funding Availability**  
**Proposal Due Date and Time:**  
**May 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Virtual Applicant Orientation: April 28, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
<https://meet.google.com/iou-mozn-zny>. Call in number: 1 617-675-4444 PIN: 802 778 872 0000#

## Introduction

The City of Columbus, Department of Development, is pleased to announce the availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. In 2021 Columbus City Council approved Ordinance 1201-2021 to authorize the City of Columbus to accept and appropriate federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as signed into law by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021. The City of Columbus has designated approximately \$5 million of ARPA funds to support the human services sector. The intended use of the funds provided through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is to increase the organizational capacity of nonprofit organizations that currently provide services to residents of the City of Columbus that: 1. Increase Infant Vitality; 2. Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness; or 3. Increase Housing Stability for Immigrant/Refugee Households.

**Elevate!** funding is **not** intended for new programs or initiatives, rather, the City of Columbus wishes to support and strengthen nonprofit organizations' ability to fulfill their mission, instead of supporting specific programs or projects.

The City of Columbus is investing in these focus areas because access to safe, stable housing is a critical social determinant of health. Every Columbus resident deserves to live in safe, stable, and affordable housing. Infant vitality is inextricably linked to housing. Infant mortality rates in Franklin County remain alarmingly high for black babies. In the 4th quarter of 2021, 52% of black babies accounted for infant deaths, yet black babies only accounted for 33% of births. Housing that is high-quality, affordable and located in resource-rich neighborhoods supports good health for moms and babies.

Columbus residents who are experiencing homelessness spend an average of nearly 90 days in emergency shelter, up from an average of 22 days. Advocates report that anywhere between 300 - 600 people are living unsheltered in our City every day; the majority desire safe and affordable housing.

The recently released **Welcoming City** document states that "Many factors prevent equitable access to safe and affordable housing for immigrant and refugee communities. These include the limited supply of housing, lack of knowledge about services and programs that support renting and homeownership, and lack of access to those services." Other barriers include language and understanding of American culture and government. For details see: [Central Ohio's Plan for Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees.pdf - Google Drive](#). Furthermore, Mayor Ginther shared his Equity Agenda, an agenda that calls out racism and discrimination where they exist and his plans to tackle it, at his state of the city address in 2020. **Elevate!** directly links to Mayor Ginther's Equity Agenda (<https://www.columbus.gov/mayor/Issues-and-Initiatives/Equity-Agenda/>).

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated all these conditions for Columbus residents. As a City, we can and must do better to **Elevate!** both our nonprofit partners and our residents.

**What is Organizational Capacity?** Organizational capacity is a nonprofit organization's ability to oversee ongoing business, operational and improvement activities including, but not limited to:

- Setting and implementing administrative policies.
- Hiring, retaining and managing personnel.
- Obtaining funding.
- Supervising program and fiscal operations.
- Technology.
- Strategic/long term planning.

**Elevate!** will connect 501(c)(3) nonprofit, human service organizations that are currently working to increase infant vitality, reduce unsheltered homelessness, or increase housing stability for immigrant/refugee households with resources to strengthen and stabilize their organizations, and further their work.

The City has partnered with the United Way of Central Ohio (UWCO) to provide an online proposal submission process. All documents must be submitted through UWCO's portal, e-CImpact. The application link to submit the proposal is provided here: <https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=37145F>. The application is available from April 22, 2022 to May 13, 2022. **The deadline for Elevate! proposal submission is May 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Only one (1) proposal per organization will be accepted. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**Elevate!** will provide funding from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 with the possibility of two (2) additional years of funding.

### **Applicant Eligibility**

Agencies must meet and check all of the following thresholds in order to be eligible for funding consideration.

- This Agency is in good standing with the federal Internal Revenue Service.
- This Agency qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- This Agency is in compliance with the State of Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- This Funding Request is not supplanting other awarded federal funds.
- This Agency agrees to ensure no duplication of efforts for budgeted items, and that funds are used appropriately.
- This Agency is aware that these are federal funds subject to all applicable federal regulations; and that the applicant, if selected, will be considered a sub recipient and shall follow all federal and local regulations regarding being a sub recipient. We strongly recommend that your agency review the **Guidance** issued by the U.S. Treasury for this funding. See link to the Guidance below: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.
- This Agency agrees to the following statement for the provision of services: *"To provide services without regard to race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity & expression, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, familial status or socio-economic status; and agrees to maintain a commitment to cultural competence and ongoing development of cultural competence capabilities of staff and organization."*
- This Agency is registered (or in the process of registering) in Sam.gov: [https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei\\*](https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei*)
- This Agency is registered (or in the process of registering) with the City of Columbus Vendor Services. *There is a two year compliance registration that must be renewed every two years. We cannot establish agreements or make payments without a current and accurate Vendor Registration.*

Also, be sure that the address you use in City Vendor Services is the SAME address you want as a Remittance Address for payments (checks)

Link to Vendor Services: <https://www.columbus.gov/finance/purchasing-office/About-Vendor-Services/>

## Application

1. The organization has been in operation for at least one year.      Yes      No
2. Does the applicant organization operate with a Fiscal Agent?      Yes      No  
If yes, who is the Fiscal Agent? Please provide Email Address, Phone Number, and Postal Address'
3. Please select one or more focus areas in which your organization is currently making an impact:

**Increasing Infant Vitality and Reducing Infant Mortality Rates:** Increase the organizational capacity of human service agencies working to: *ensure that all babies—regardless of race, zip code or family income—celebrate their first birthdays. The organization’s work in addressing one or more social determinants of health is helping reduce the disparity in the infant mortality rates (IMR) between black and white babies while reducing the IMRs for all babies.*

**Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness:** Increase the organizational capacity of human service agencies working to: *Reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness to functional zero by improving access to obtain and/or maintain safe, affordable housing and person-centered supportive services.*

**Increasing Housing Stability for Immigrant/Refugee Households:** Increase the organizational capacity of human service agencies working to: *improve access to, obtain and/or maintain safe, affordable housing and person-centered supportive services for immigrant/refugee individuals and families experiencing housing instability.*

## Agency Information

4. Please describe the organization’s mission, values, and goals as they relate to the selected focus area(s). (4,000 character maximum)
5. Number of years the applicant organization been involved/working in the selected focus area \_\_\_\_\_
6. Please describe the organization’s current programming in the selected focus area(s). For example:
  - “We operate a program called, ‘Housing Immigrants,’ that placed 84 families in stable housing over the last two years.”
  - “47% of our clients are refugees, and although we do not house them ourselves, we directly partner with three housing providers to secure stable housing for them.”
  - We work with parents/guardians of newborn babies to provide safe parenting education, free diapers and wipes, free safe sleeping equipment (fixed and portable cribs), and connection to parenting resources.  
(2,000 character maximum)
7. Please describe the organization’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion as they relate to the selected focus area(s). (2,000 character maximum)
8. Is the applicant organization’s FY 2022 Approved Budget (Select one):
  - Less than \$500,000**
  - \$500,000 to \$1,000,000**
  - More than \$1,000,000**

The size of the applicant organization's 2022 Board Approved Budget determines the amount of funding your organization may request. Please request a funding amount that aligns with the 2022 Board Approved Budget.

If FY 2022 Approved Budget is **less than \$500,000**, please select **one** of the following funding requests:

\$10,000      \$15,000      \$20,000      \$25,000      \$50,000

If FY 2022 Approved Budget is **\$500,000 to \$1,000,000**, please select **one** of the following funding requests:

\$25,000      \$50,000      \$75,000      \$100,000

If FY 2022 Approved Budget is **more than \$1,000,000**, please select **one** of the following funding requests:

\$50,000      \$75,000      \$100,000      \$150,000

9. Please describe how the applicant organization will use funds to build its capacity. (2,000 character maximum)
10. How will increased capacity improve the applicant agency's ability to improve service delivery in the selected focus area(s)? (400 words maximum)

**Documents to upload in PDF Format:**

- IRS Form 990
- IRS Form W-9
- IRS Determination Letter
- Current Certificate of Registration from the Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Budget ACTUALS for 2019, 2020, 2021
- Board Approved 2022 Operating Budget

**Documents to upload in Excel Format:**

- Please list the names, titles, gender expression, racial/ethnic identity of the applicant organization's Leadership Staff.
- Please list the names, titles, gender expression, racial/ethnic identity, place of business/affiliations of the applicant organization's Board of Directors.

## DEFINITIONS

**At Risk of Unsheltered Homelessness** Living in a temporary [time-limited] place: emergency shelter, transitional housing, doubled-up. Place acting as a bridge to safe, healthy affordable permanent housing

**Functional Zero** is achieved when the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Columbus is zero. The availability of services and resources match or exceed the demand for them from individuals at risk of or actually experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Further, such resources are optimized, performing as intended with maximum efficacy.

**Housing Stability** is achieved when an individual or family lives in residential housing that is safe, healthy and affordable to them. Affordability is achieved when a household is paying no more than 30% of its total household income for housing expenses.

**Infant Mortality Rate:** This is the reported rate of the number of fetal deaths per 1000 live births in Columbus and Franklin County

**Organizational Capacity:** A 501c3 nonprofit organization's ability to oversee ongoing business, operational and improvement activities including, but not limited to, setting and implementing administrative policies, hiring, retaining and managing personnel, obtaining funding, supervising program and fiscal operations, technology, and strategic/long term planning.

**Unsheltered Homelessness** Living unsheltered on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation including, but not limited to, camping, a car, park, bus or train station, abandoned buildings, etc. on public land and private property [residential and commercial]