



**UNITED WAY**  
Greater Cincinnati

Request for Proposals

# Future of Manufacturing Fund

Advancing the future of manufacturing together.

Funded by



**GE Aerospace**

Foundation

[uwgc.org](http://uwgc.org)

## Contents

Contents .....	2
Future of Manufacturing Program.....	2
Overview:.....	2
A coordinated Approach TO innovation & problem solving .....	3
Organizational Eligibility:.....	3
Grant Process and Key Dates.....	4
Information Sessions, Technical Assistance & Other Support.....	4
Proposal Criteria:.....	4
Application Questions.....	5
Organizational Profile.....	5
Leadership and Primary Contact Information .....	5
Overview of Current Programs & Services .....	5
Proposed Project:.....	5
Reporting and Participation Requirements:.....	6
How Do I Apply? .....	7
Step One: Review Grant Information and Eligibility Requirements.....	7
Step Two: Complete the Full Application.....	7

## FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING PROGRAM

### *Advancing the Future of Manufacturing Together*

This grant opportunity is funded by GE Aerospace Foundation in partnership with United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

#### **OVERVIEW:**

United Way of Greater Cincinnati announces the launch of the Future of Manufacturing Program, funded by GE Aerospace Foundation, to address the critical gap in the advanced manufacturing workforce. Through this three-year initiative, we seek to increase the pipeline of skilled workforce by providing grants to a cohort of partners for projects to increase enrollment in, completion of, or job obtainment in the advanced manufacturing sector in Greater Cincinnati.

Grant funding and technical assistance within a cohort setting will support community partners in replicating proven practices or scaling existing solutions to improve outcomes. Funding will start on July 1, 2024, with up to a three-month planning period, if needed, and implementation period of up to 12 months. A second cohort will be funded in 2025 and a final cohort in 2026.

Organizations may only submit one application and grants will likely range from \$25,000 - \$50,000. Organizations funded in year 1 may be eligible for continued or new funding in year 2 or 3.

## A COORDINATED APPROACH TO INNOVATION & PROBLEM SOLVING

This request for proposals seeks programs that address the current constraints in meeting the workforce needs in the advanced manufacturing sector. Informed by a range of community stakeholders, these constraints include:

- Limited capacity of technical training programs, often driven by limited access to trained instructors.
- Fragmentation across critical stakeholders and partners, such as public funders, educational and technical training providers, workforce development, and employers.
- Insufficient, flexible funding to test new ideas.

Despite the numerous educational and workforce training programs implementing top notch programs, lack of coordination and sharing of best practices often results in duplication, reinventing the wheel and ineffective use of resources as individual efforts try to solve regional challenges.

Solving local challenges at scale requires coordination and rigor. This opportunity will bring together advanced manufacturing stakeholders, financial resources and technical assistance to replicate and/or scale best-practices to grow the advanced manufacturing workforce pipeline.

- **Flexible funding** structure that drives coordination and collaboration between educational, workforce and support systems.
- **Cohort learning** environment for rigor and sharing of learning.
- **Centralized coordination and technical assistance** to identify best practices, infuse quality improvement, document and track.

This opportunity will provide grant funding and a cohort experience to support education, workforce or other nonprofit partners in replicating or scaling proven solutions aimed to grow the advanced manufacturing workforce.

Projects funded by the Future of Manufacturing Program will have to demonstrate the evidence of the solution they want to replicate or scale and set targets to improve program outputs and outcomes associated with: **Enrollment, Completion and Employment.**

Using quality improvement practices, projects will also monitor and assess: **Results of specific interventions tested or implemented, key learnings and considerations for replication by other communities.**

### ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY:

Organizations must meet the following criteria to be eligible for funding through this process:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or other tax-exempt educational provider, community-based group, entity or collaboration/coalition that operate like a nonprofit organization.
- Operate services or programming to community members to support advanced manufacturing workforce development.
- Operate programs or services that serve a majority of people living within United Way of Greater Cincinnati's footprint including:
  - Hamilton, Clermont, Brown counties in Ohio
  - Dearborn and Ohio counties in Indiana
  - Boone, Campbell, Kenton, Grant counties in Kentucky

## GRANT PROCESS AND KEY DATES

*These dates may change. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner.*

- May 2: Program Announcement Date
- May 14: Program Overview via Webinar
- May 16: Application opens in e-CImpact
- May 30 and June 10: Open Q&A Office Hours on Teams
- June 14: Applications DUE in e-CImpact
- July 1: Funding awards announced
- July 18 or 19<sup>th</sup>: Cohort convening (date to be finalized once grant awards are announced)
- August 1: Grant period begins

## INFORMATION SESSIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & OTHER SUPPORT

United Way will be providing a range of ways to support organizations as they explore this opportunity and complete the application.

- Informational Webinar (Live and Recorded): An informational webinar will be hosted on May 14<sup>th</sup>. A recording of the webinar will be made available for those unable to attend – visit [www.uwgc.org/grants](http://www.uwgc.org/grants) for the recording.
- We will hold open office hours on May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup> for grantees to log on and ask questions. Times and Teams link will be distributed at a later date.
- Send us an email at [impact@uwgc.org](mailto:impact@uwgc.org) with your communication preference (email or phone) to ask questions, schedule a technical assistance meeting to navigate the application system or discuss a concern. The appropriate staff will connect with you within 1-2 business days of receiving your email.
- Access online materials at [www.uwgc.org/grants](http://www.uwgc.org/grants). All materials, including a recording of the information session and additional resources, will be posted on United Way's website.

## PROPOSAL CRITERIA:

Proposals will be reviewed by United Way of Greater Cincinnati staff and a group of volunteer reviews based on the following criteria:

- 1. Demonstrated expertise in workforce development, education or training**
  - Demonstrates current programs / services and impact aligned to the goals of this funding opportunity; and
  - Demonstrates the capacity, experience and expertise to implement the proposed program(s) within the grant period.
- 2. Evidence of Data-Informed Approach(es) and Proposed Impact**
  - Clearly demonstrates the problem the proposal seeks to address as it relates to the goals of the grant; and
  - Provides clear data and evidence to support the proposed program or services as a solution to the challenge to be addressed.
- 3. Contributions to and Participation in a Cohort Environment**
  - Demonstrates the capacity to participate in the cohort learning environment; and
  - Shares anticipated learning and challenges.

## Application Questions

### ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Provide/ review general information about your organization. Some of the information may be prepopulated by the system:

- Organization Name
- Organization EIN
- Organization Address
- Organization Phone Number
- Organization Website (if available)

### LEADERSHIP AND PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Provide contact information for your organization's leadership as well as the point of contact during the grant process.

- Executive Director or CEO Contact Information: Name, Pronouns, Title, Email, Phone
- Executive Director Demographics: (Select age range, gender, and race)
- Primary Contact Information for this Application: Name, Pronouns, Title, Email, Phone

### OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Provide information on your current programs and services by answering the following questions.

- **Description of Programs/ Services:** Provide a short description of the programs/ services provided by your organization that directly support the **desired outcome of increasing the number of skilled individuals to address the workforce needs of the advanced manufacturing sector.**
- **Programmatic Outcomes:** Provide a brief narrative of results and outcomes achieved today through the services described above by providing results for the following measures:
  - **Enrollment rates** in advanced manufacturing related programs, training or education (# of people enrolled / # total capacity of programs)
  - **Completion rates** for people participating in programs (# of people who complete/ # of people enrolled)
  - **Employment rates** (# of people who obtain employment in advanced manufacturing/ # people who complete)

If these do not apply to your programs, please describe why and share alternative measures of impact.

### PROPOSED PROJECT:

Provide information specifically on the program/project for which you are requesting funding.

- **Project Name:** Provide a title or name for the project.
- **Amount Requested:** Provide the grant amount requested.
- **Challenge to be Addressed:** Provide a short description of the challenge you are seeking to address. Examples could include: increasing enrollment, expanding capacity, improving completion rates, reducing the time to complete, etc. Please note that this challenge should be

contributing to or causing limitations in your organization's ability to increase the number of skilled individuals entering the advanced manufacturing sector.

- **Solution to be Tested:** Provide a description of the proposed solution that you seek to replicate or scale in order to achieve one or more of the following outcomes: **Increase program enrollment; Increase program completion / credential attainment; Increase job attainment in advanced manufacturing.** Describe the evidence or data on the proven solution and why you have chosen it. Share how the funding would be used.
- **Organizational Capacity:** Share your capacity to test the solution shared above and your ability to participate and contribute to a cohort learning experience for the next 12 – 18 months.
- **Anticipated Learning:** Share what you anticipate learning if selected for this grant. Provide insights into capacity building opportunities or technical assistance you would need to successfully implement your proposed solution.
- **Planning Period:** The grant timeline will provide up to three months for planning. Is that planning period sufficient? Do you anticipate any challenges in implementing your proposed solution in the time period provided?
- **Implementation Period:** The grant timeline will provide a 12-month period for implementation. Given the implementation period of the grant, share any challenges or timing concerns that you may have. If applicable, share what you would need to mitigate the challenge(s) or reduce the concern(s).
- **Program Budget:** Include the total cost to execute the program, both from this grant program and any other funds.

## **REPORTING AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:**

By applying, the organization acknowledges the following reporting and participation requirements. If awarded funding, details for each of the following will be outlined in greater detail in a grant agreement.

- Cohort kick off and mid-year meeting
- Quarterly check in calls
- Peer to peer sharing as necessary
- Final grant report

## How Do I Apply?

### STEP ONE: REVIEW GRANT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Prior to completing the application, please review all the information in this grant packet and any supplemental information, along with attending the Overview Webinar. This will help ensure that all organizations who apply are fully eligible and prepared to fulfill the requirements of grant funding.

### STEP TWO: COMPLETE THE FULL APPLICATION

United Way uses a grant application system called e-CImpact. You will be asked to use this system to complete the questions above. **The online application will be available May 16th.** At that point, you may visit <https://www.uwgc.org/for-nonprofits> to access e-CImpact. (You can also find this link by visiting [www.uwgc.org](http://www.uwgc.org) and clicking on “For Nonprofits” in the footer of the website under Resources.)

- Click on the e-CImpact Online Reporting tile.
- If you are a current user, enter your username and password to log in and click to register for the application process.
- For new users, select the option to **create an e-CImpact account**.
  - Username: Must be your organizational email address
  - After creating an account, you will be able to click to register for the application process.

**Complete instructions on accessing the application through the system will be posted [www.uwgc.org/grants](http://www.uwgc.org/grants) by May 13th.**

