

WHAT IS THE GRANTMAKING PARTNER PROGRAM?

The Grantmaking Partners Program is a unique way for **individuals, fund holders, Foundations and businesses** to help fund more local nonprofits in Evanston.

Each year, ECF's **unrestricted endowment** can only go so far. That's where **Grantmaking Partners** come in—by making a gift (through a donor-advised fund, foundation, or personal donation), they **help us say “yes” to more deserving organizations.**

BREAKING DOWN OUR GRANTMAKING FUNDING



Endowment Draws are set at 5% draw at a three year rolling average.

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We hope to raise at least \$400,000 in grantmaking partner dollars in 2026.

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Grantmaking Partners increase our endowment pool and allow us to fund as many grants as possible.

GRANTMAKING PARTNER BENEFITS



Ability to make unrestricted or directed giving



Support innovative programs that promise long-term prosperity



Streamline your giving through one trusted partner—ECF



Advance Equity through local decision-making



No need to solicit and evaluate proposals



Join a community of engaged local donors



BECOME A GRANTMAKING PARTNER

The need is now, and your support can make the difference. Reach out to explore how your support—big or small—can have lasting impact in Evanston.



development@evanstonforever.org



847-492-0990

ECF'S CORE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

NOW FUND

Annual gifts that go directly to meeting urgent and emerging needs in Evanston.

GRANTMAKING PARTNERS

Those interested in partnering with ECF's Grantmaking —extending our impact beyond our usual resources.

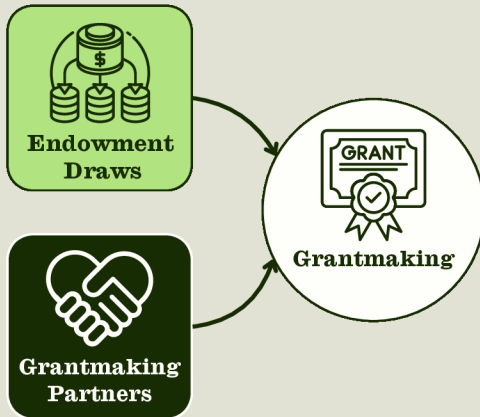
FOREVER FUND

Is ECF's unrestricted endowment fund that generates annual income (via 5% draw) to support unrestricted grantmaking year after year.

FUNDING EVANSTON: NOW AND FOREVER

GRANTMAKING

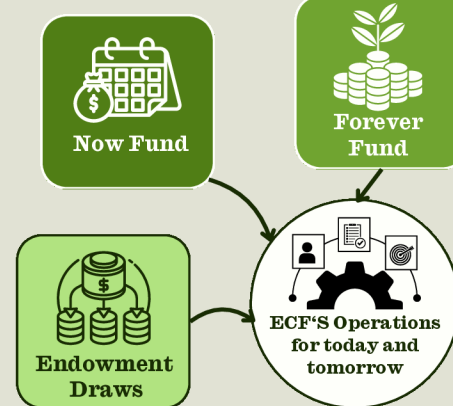
Fueling Evanston's Nonprofits



- Directly supports local nonprofits
- Enables trust-based, unrestricted funding
- Strengthens community resilience

ECF'S OPERATIONS

Impacting Today
Sustaining Tomorrow



- Sustains a strong, nimble ECF
- Supports systems-change work
- Builds infrastructure to serve Evanston long-term

YOUR GIFT = IMMEDIATE & ENDURING IMPACT

Whether you give to the **Now Fund**, join as a **Grantmaking Partner**, or support the **Forever Fund**, your donation powers real change—for today and for generations to come.

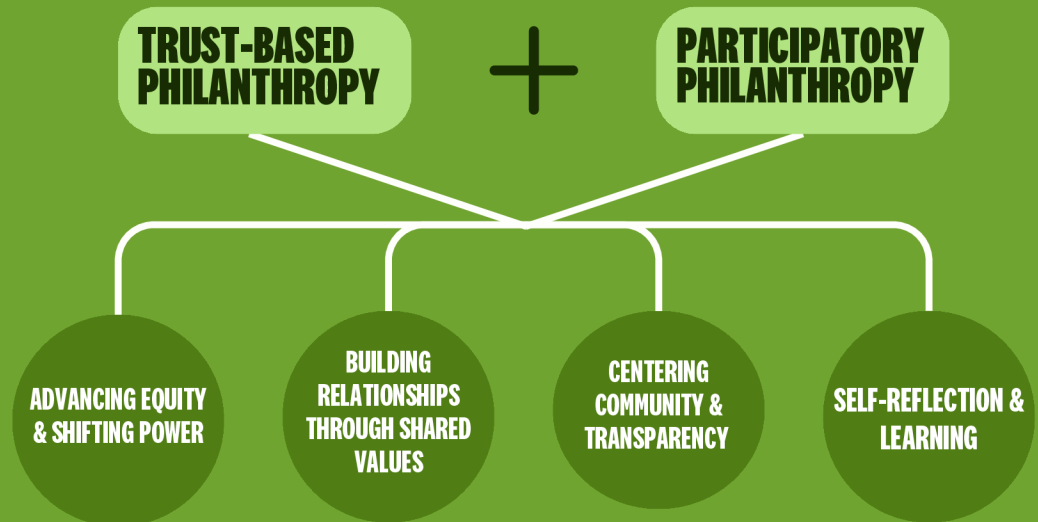
WHAT IS COMMUNITY-LED GRANTMAKING?

At ECF, we believe those closest to the challenges should help decide how funding is used. Our community-led grantmaking model shifts decision-making to local residents and leaders with lived experience.

Each grant cycle, diverse committees of 10–12 volunteers—many from programs like Leadership Evanston and Advocates for Action—review proposals and recommend funding based on what our community truly needs. Their top-rated proposals are then approved by our Board.

ECF'S MODEL OF COMMUNITY-LED GRANTMAKING

This community-led model is informed by a blend of best practices sourced from trust-based philanthropy and participatory grantmaking. The cornerstones of our community-led grantmaking approach:



The result? A grantmaking process rooted in **humility, partnership, and justice.**

WHEN & WHAT WE FUND

ECF offers **Community-Led Grants twice a year**—in the **spring and fall**. These are **unrestricted general operating grants**, helping grassroots and emerging nonprofits invest in their operations, respond to evolving needs, and advance racial equity across Evanston.



WHY COMMUNITY-LED MATTERS

By supporting this model, you're helping:

- Fund what matters most to those on the frontlines
- Redistribute power and challenge traditional philanthropic norms
- Invest in a more equitable, resilient Evanston



**This is not just grantmaking—
it's community building**