

WHAT IS THE GRANTMAKING PARTNER PROGRAM?

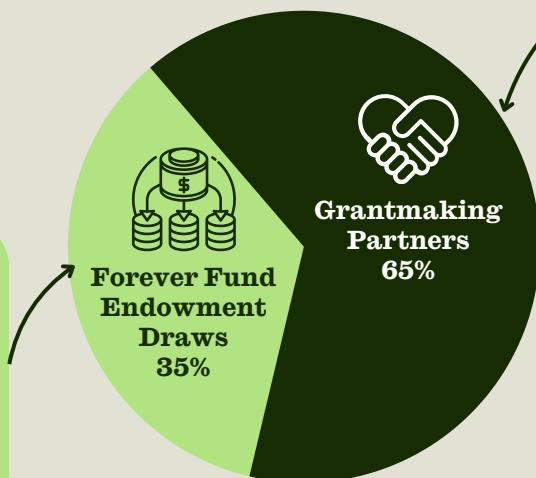
The Grantmaking Partners Program is a unique way for **individuals, fund holders, Foundations and businesses** to help fund more local nonprofits in Evanston.

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

- Forever Fund Endowment Draws are set at 5% draw at a three year rolling average.
- Currently, this helps fund about \$300,000 in grants annually

2025 ECF Grant Funding % BASED ON 2025 ANTICIPATED NEED



- Grantmaking Partners increase our grant pool and allow us to fund as many grants as possible.
- In 2025, we aim to double our grantmaking partner support to \$600,000
- This is in addition to our Now Fund and Forever Fund partnership goals.

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

Our annual fund helps us meet urgent and emerging needs in Evanston, helping mobilize money, people, ideas, and talent.

GRANTMAKING PARTNERS

Helps us increase our annual investment in the nonprofit sector while offering donors a path to restrict their giving exclusively to grantmaking.

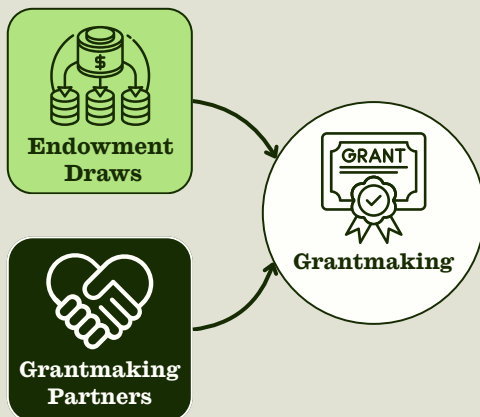
FOREVER FUND

ECF's unrestricted endowed fund generates annual income (via 5% draw) to support and ensure a stronger Evanston forever.

FUNDING EVANSTON: NOW AND FOREVER

GRANTMAKING

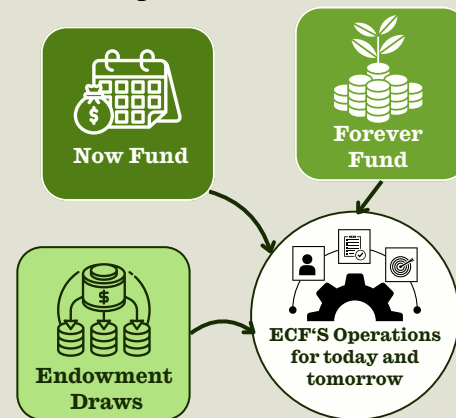
Fueling Evanston's Nonprofits



- 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

OUR FOREVER PILLARS

ADVANCING JUSTICE

We are committed to making systemic change in Evanston, including channeling resources to parts of our community that have been most impacted by historical injustices.

INVESTING IN EVANSTON

For now and for generations to come, we strive to be a supportive partner to Evanston's people, nonprofit sector, grassroots groups, and small businesses with a charitable purpose.

EMPOWERING LEADERS

We are committed to expanding leadership development opportunities and building a culture that embraces the knowledge and skills of all Evanstonians.

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:

**TRUST-BASED
PHILANTHROPY**



**PARTICIPATORY
PHILANTHROPY**

**ADVANCING EQUITY
& SHIFTING POWER**

**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS
THROUGH SHARED
VALUES**

**CENTERING
COMMUNITY &
TRANSPARENCY**

**SELF-REFLECTION &
LEARNING**

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

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025
49%

of our grants will
be community-led

This reflects ECF's
commitment to
**centering community
voice and choice**

WHEN & WHAT WE FUND

ECF offers **Community-Led Grants twice a year**—in the **Spring and Fall**. These are **unrestricted general operating grants**, helping organizations strengthen their operations, respond to evolving needs, and grow their impact across our community.



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**