

2024 GRANTS

E-Town Innovation

***Issued in Spring/Summer 2024**

Individual grants up to \$20,000 that support new or expanded innovative programs that:

- Prioritize equitable opportunities and outcomes for Black People, Indigenous People, and People of Color (BIPOC)*
- Support organizations working together to solve community challenges and change systems
- Embrace creative solutions that address community needs in ways that are more effective, equitable, or sustainable than standard approaches

Grassroots/Community Groups Grants

Club Tree'd House

Club Tree'd Self Care Project

Grant Amount: \$5,000

This project nurtures well-being by providing a safe space to practice self-care, self-sufficiency and socializing. Club Tree'd House offers out-of-school programs, recreational projects and social events that provide youth with the proper tools and education to overcome socioeconomic disparities, holistically.

The goal is to launch a seed starting project during school recess and in class, to repurpose an unused space and to implement the 2024 recreational project "Get Well" Greenhouse where students will maintain and care for plants indoors.

Evanston First Alliance, Inc.

Boxing Recreational Program

Grant Amount: \$20,000

This project looks empower underserved Evanston youth through a safe space after school program for boxing/martial arts, academic support, adult/peer mentoring, career development, and community building with Evanston Law Enforcement. This will improve each student's self-esteem by enhancing their physical and emotional control; and will instill the confidence to overcome life's obstacles, small and large, by nurturing the belief that they have the fortitude to persevere and succeed.



Padres Empoderados

Salud Mental Al Alcance De Todos

Grant Amount: \$20,000

This project will offer classes on mental health topics for Spanish-speaking parents. These workshops will be taught by specialists and will include an adult mental health first aid program. Each participant will receive a certificate upon completion of these trainings. This project will support the Latine community and open a path to monthly group chats, creating a safe space for Spanish-speaking parents, to express themselves free of judgment and in their language, to connect with their emotions, to release their worries and to feel heard and accompanied.

Community Institutions Grants

Books & Breakfast

Advancing Racial Equity by Reversing Summer Learning Loss in D65

Grant Amount: \$20,000

This project will support the sustainability and enhancement of B&B's Summer Reading Intensive Program. Created to address COVID-19 learning loss, RSLL has shown transformational promise: children gained an average of 6+ months in 6 weeks. This year's iteration and continued support aims for B&B students to gain over 3.5 years in reading by Grade 8.

Boys Hope/Girls Hope of Illinois (BHGH)

Professional Internship Support to Help Our Collegians Soar

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois mission is to nurture and guide motivated young people in need to become college-educated, career-ready, community-minded adults. Internships are critical to getting that first job, which gets difficult if students lack social networks to access these roles. This is a program built to help open doors and reduce barriers for all participant Collegians through BHGH College Intern Program with salary support, professional clothing, and intern housing and transportation.

Center for Independent Futures

Enhancing Equity and Opportunity for BIPOC Individuals w/Disabilities through Social Connection

Grant Amount: \$ 16,500

ETHS students and graduates with disabilities, with over 80% identifying as BIPOC, will join an expanded activities program fostering social connections and life skills while promoting community engagement. Participants will collaboratively develop a plan to stay connected, mitigating social isolation and advancing their equity of opportunity and inclusion.



Evanston Health Dept.

Fifth Ward Health Hub

Grant Amount: \$20,000

The City of Evanston HHS Department strives to increase equitable access to resources that allow all residents, particularly those in the 5th ward, to be healthy and to flourish. By creating a Fifth Ward Health Hub in a safe, trustworthy community space, this project aims to increase hyperlocal access to health resources for the population most in need.

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project

Empowering Low-income Latines with Inclusion, Information and Resources in Evanston

Grant Amount: \$20,000

FLAP seeks to support the Latine community through advocacy, community outreach & education, litigation, community legal education, information and referrals. This project is part of FLAP's ongoing efforts at preventing human labor trafficking, securing dual citizenship for children and facilitating access to cash transfers to very low-income populations in Evanston free of charge and without regard to immigration status.

PEER Services, Inc.

Supporting Students through Early Intervention

Grant Amount: \$20,000

PEER Services seeks to continue and enhance their successful partnership with ETHS to provide onsite substance use early intervention counseling. Using restorative practices, the program aims to stop or reduce students' substance use and its adverse impacts, which are disproportionately experienced by BIPOC individuals.

Nonprofit Growth and Sustainability

***Issued in Spring/Summer 2024**

Individual grants of up to \$25,000 in operating funds. Evanston Community Foundation is dedicated to bolstering a vibrant and thriving nonprofit sector in Evanston. We provide unrestricted, flexible funding for general operations to Evanston nonprofits that show a clear dedication to racial equity in their mission, vision, and day-to-day operations.

Books and Breakfast

General Operating Grant

Amount: \$25,000.00

This general operating grant will support projects that advance Books and Breakfast's work to disrupt systemic racism in D65 schools by tripling their support of native Spanish speaking families in the district. Native Spanish speakers, projected to become Evanston's majority minority, are the fastest-growing demographic group in D65; this project anchors Books and Breakfast's ability to scale existing pilot programs at Washington and Willard Schools, which host D65 Spanish-English Two-Way Immersion Programs.



Erie Family Health Centers – Evanston/Skokie

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

Erie Family Health Centers address a fundamental challenge: not everyone has an equal opportunity to live their healthiest lives, especially those from historically disinvested communities. Erie Evanston/Skokie Health Center is a healthcare home for residents of Evanston and nearby communities in need of comprehensive medical, oral, and behavioral healthcare. Erie is committed to addressing health inequities by providing high quality healthcare so all people can live their healthiest lives.

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

A general operating grant would enhance Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project's mission in Evanston by supporting advocacy, community outreach and education, legal services, and collaboration to improve working conditions for low-income workers to ensure equitable access to justice and support services for marginalized individuals, combating labor exploitation and promoting social and economic empowerment.

Infant Welfare Society of Evanston

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

General operating grants provide crucial support to Infant Welfare Society of Evanston (IWSE), allowing the agency to deliver exceptional care to children and their families. Without such support, IWSE would face funding gaps and have to scale back programs for vulnerable Evanston children.

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

The James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy ("Moran Center") is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Evanston providing a free lifeline of integrated legal, mental health, and restorative services to youth and families. Their work advances the vision of a more just, racially equitable, and restorative society at the local, regional, and state level.

McGaw YMCA

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

McGaw YMCA is seeking general operating funding to strengthen staffing and improve quality and impactful programming to address emerging needs post-pandemic for all ages across the Evanston community. With rising costs for family basic needs, social isolation of older adults, physical and mental health and well-being challenges, and youth social-emotional setbacks, ECF support would help them maintain equitable services and build community while planning for future sustainability.



Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

This general operating grant will help support the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian to grow their capacity to provide equitable programs and educational resources that elevate Indigenous perspectives and share an accurate Native American history of the Evanston and Great Lakes area.

Young, Black & Lit

General Operating

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

Young, Black & Lit will invest \$25,000 in unrestricted funding in FY25 to support the organization's shift to an operations/governance model during its sixth and seventh years as it continues to scale its Evanston programs and reach. This ECF grant supports increased administrative support over the 12-month grant period, as well as some daily operations costs to allow for greater volume in programming and reach, increased volunteer participation, and optimization of leadership time and focus.

Collective and Enduring

***These investments are intentionally multi-stakeholder, multi-year, and ever-growing, so the grant amounts change annually.**

These grants bring together nonprofit organizations, community institutions, and other stakeholders to address, challenge, and effect systems change over the long-term. Rather than an open application process, these grants stem from collaborations and dialogues among community stakeholders and ECF staff and leadership.

YWCA Evanston/Northshore -Savings for Success: Strategic Program Consultant Contract Extension

Builds the capacity of the Savings for Success (S4S) collaboration to launch and sustain a district-wide Children's Savings Account program by extending the contract of its consultant to support the S4S team as it works to relaunch the program and build out marketing materials, recruit and train program ambassadors, and plan for the 2024-25 school year. In 2025, the Savings for Success program is designed to enroll and incentivize District 65 Kindergartners and Sixth graders.

Connections for the Homeless - Affordable Housing Advocacy Evanston

This grant will support and grow the capacity of the Connections Advocacy program, which addresses systemic issues and the legacy of institutionalized racism and discrimination through building coalitions and leading local projects to work upstream to change the systems perpetuating homelessness and housing instability.



Reparations Stakeholder Authority of Evanston (RSAE)

Considering the core responsibilities of the RSAE, a need for an administrative assistant has become apparent. The right person for this position will assist in overseeing critical goals over the course of the next two years.

RSAE - Evanston Reconciliation Project

This initiative to advance epistemic reparations envisions a collaborative effort among several esteemed organizations in Evanston to host a year-long series of nine restorative community circles and artistic healing experiences across various Evanston community centers. These restorative circles will foster healing and reconciliation and provide valuable training to community members interested in facilitating such circles. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to share their stories and artistic expressions, all captured by a team of Evanston- based filmmakers and documentarians.

NEW TO 2024

Grassroot Community Groups and Emerging Nonprofits

***Issued in Fall 2024**

ECF has a long history of supporting emerging nonprofits. To deepen our Strategic Plan commitment of Strengthening the Nonprofit Community, we are offering grants of up to \$25,000 in unrestricted, flexible funding to grassroots community groups and emerging nonprofits in Evanston with an operational budget under \$500,000.

These groups play a vital role in addressing unmet needs within the community. These grants will provide the needed resources to enhance operations, expand their reach, and amplify their impact within the community.

Artsie Inc.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Artsie Inc. is an Evanston-based nonprofit dedicated to empowering children and families through equitable, high-quality arts and education programs. ARTSiE provides after-school and seasonal enrichment programs for all children, with a focus on underserved youth, to bridge diverse cultures and strengthen community connections. By integrating culturally relevant literature with art forms like dance, drama, and painting, ARTSiE enhances reading comprehension, social-emotional learning, and family engagement. Each session includes a lending library and a literacy-rich curriculum, building a community of readers. ARTSiE partners with local schools, cultural centers, and organizations to ensure that children most in need benefit from their programs.



Evanston ASPA

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Founded in 2020, Evanston ASPA (Asian, South Asian, and Pacific American) is dedicated to enhancing the visibility, support, and representation of the local Asian American community. The organization creates inclusive spaces to foster belonging, disrupts stereotypes through events that celebrate the Asian American diaspora, and promotes community-wide engagement. Additionally, Evanston ASPA builds intersectional and interracial partnerships with local groups focused on equity and social justice. It also connects the ASPA community to essential services, including mental health, business support, immigration, translation, and legal assistance, ensuring community members have the resources needed to thrive personally and professionally.

Evanston Latinos

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Evanston Latinos NFP, founded in 2020, began as a grassroots effort by Latine community leaders in Evanston to support Spanish-speaking residents. Initially, the organization focused on providing COVID-19 resources in Spanish, addressing the community's health, financial, and informational needs. Through the Hogares Saludables program, over 60 families received aid and education on wellness, technology, and financial literacy. Evanston Latinos also advocated for an immigrant Welcome Center, which now serves new residents. Continuing efforts include cultural events, Cafecitos for community dialogue, and plans for a shared commercial kitchen to promote entrepreneurship, all aimed at empowering Evanston's Latine and immigrant communities. Throughout these efforts, they aim to fortify the community, foster connections, and advocate for equity and inclusion for the Latine, immigrant, undocumented, and mixed-status community in Evanston.

Family Promise Chicago North Shore

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Family Promise Chicago North Shore (FPCNS) helps families experiencing homelessness transition quickly back to stable housing. By providing 24/7 shelter, meals, and job search support, FPCNS addresses both immediate needs and underlying causes of homelessness. The organization's model relies on community partnerships, with 28 churches and synagogues offering rotating shelter spaces, meals, and safe environments for families. Through three pillars—Homelessness Prevention, Shelter Services, and Post-Shelter Support—FPCNS assists families in finding housing and employment, building budgeting skills, and connecting with essential community resources. FPCNS envisions a future where every family has a home, livelihood, and opportunities for a better life.

Kuumba Evanston

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Kuumba Evanston serves Evanston families of color affected by systemic racism, providing resources to guide their children through mentorship, academic support, and enriching experiences. By offering programs year-round, including the free summer Camp Kuumba, Kuumba Evanston partners with families to reduce barriers and expand access to the community's opportunities. Camp Kuumba empowers Black youth through sports, arts, reading, financial literacy, STEM, and community service, fostering pride in their identity and building confidence. Kuumba Evanston addresses the socioeconomic segregation impacting opportunities for children of color, working to dismantle inequities and replace them with pathways for success and personal growth.



Latinos en Evanston Northshore

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Founded in 2016 by five Latina women, Latinos en Evanston Northshore (LENS) is a grassroots organization led by women of color, dedicated to serving Latino families in Evanston. Through authentic, culturally relevant outreach, LENS connects families to essential resources, bridging educational and service gaps to support their advancement and upward mobility. LENS also promotes Hispanic heritage through meaningful cultural programming. Focused on inclusivity, the organization provides Spanish-language resources, ESL classes, and gatherings for Senior citizens to ensure that all community members, including Spanish-speaking immigrants, feel welcomed and supported. LENS envisions a future where Evanston Latinos thrive with pride and access to opportunity.

Open Studio Project

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Open Studio Project (OSP) is dedicated to using the transformative power of art for personal growth, social-emotional learning, and community wellness. For nearly 25 years, OSP has partnered with organizations across Evanston to deliver accessible, impactful art programs. At the heart of every OSP program is the Open Studio Process, a unique blend of creative arts, mindfulness, and reflective writing aimed at reducing stress, processing trauma, and enhancing mental health. OSP serves diverse groups, offering school-based art programs, professional development workshops, and specialized art therapy for unhoused individuals, veterans, adults with disabilities, and youth in need.

Padres Empoderados

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Padres Empoderados is a grassroots organization led by Latino parents in the Evanston Community, dedicated to promoting mental health awareness. They organize mental and emotional health workshops completely accessible in Spanish language, aiming to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health issues within the Latino community. Professional instructors facilitate these workshops, creating a supportive environment for parents to explore their emotions and share experiences. Participants have reported improved family relationships and better coping strategies. Recognizing community interest, Padres Empoderados will host a family-inclusive workshop, enabling parents and children to learn together about enhancing family dynamics and emotional well-being.

Purple Line Adventure Play

Grant Amount: \$19,243

Purple Line Adventure Play offers a free summer camp focused on child-directed play for the children of Elks Park. Since 2019, this initiative has provided local youth with essential play experiences that promote creativity, friendship, problem-solving, and confidence. Recognizing the importance of play in children's physical, emotional, and social development, the program encourages community involvement by inviting parents and/or guardians to participate in advisory committees, drumming circles, and events. By fostering a collaborative environment, Purple Line Adventure Play aims to build a supportive "village" that enhances the sense of belonging for both children and adults, helping children thrive into adulthood.



Tech All Stars Program

Grant Amount: \$22,400

Tech All Stars is dedicated to developing the next generation of diverse IT and cybersecurity professionals. The program addresses the gap between open positions and qualified candidates by training young people from Evanston to succeed in the lucrative IT field. Through a combination of professional and personal development, along with technical skills training, Tech All Stars fosters a diverse IT helpdesk workforce. This pathway provides underrepresented groups with economic stability and a network of supportive IT mentors. Graduates report increased confidence and are actively pursuing IT careers, with some continuing their education and helping future cohorts succeed.

Women Initiating New Directions (WIND)

Grant Amount: \$10,000

WIND is a community organization dedicated to empowering women with a history of incarceration or those at risk of incarceration. Acknowledging that investments in prison programs often overlook women, WIND aims to inspire them to design fulfilling life journeys using newly acquired tools and strategies. The organization believes that investing in women creates a positive ripple effect in families and communities impacted by the justice system. Through programs focused on expressive writing, personal reflection, and skill development, WIND helps women reclaim their voices, heal from trauma, and achieve stability. Currently active in transition homes and Cook County, WIND plans to expand to additional sites in Evanston.

Youth Technology Corps NFP, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

YTC is committed to preparing youth, particularly BIPOC, for the demands of the modern workforce while empowering them to serve their communities in Evanston. Through after-school clubs, YTC teaches valuable technology skills, including computer hardware, software, robotics, engineering, and leadership development. YTC has positively impacted communities in Evanston since establishing the ETHS Club in 2009. Students have donated over 1,000 computers to local organizations, bridging the digital divide and enhancing their community service experiences. The upcoming ETHS Global Learning Center will further promote STEM education and community engagement, fostering a culture of learning and service.

Partner With ECF

If these wonderful organizations or initiatives inspired you to join with ECF by becoming a Grantmaking Partner, please don't hesitate to reach out. Unrestricted donations are highly encouraged as they give us the flexibility to fund more projects, but if a specific grant resonates with you, we welcome restricted support as well. We'd be happy to share full proposals or answer any questions.

Contact

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