

EVANSTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

General Operating

Grassroots Community Groups and Emerging Nonprofits

In alignment with The Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) [strategic plan](#), the foundation aims to build justice and resiliency while connecting and strengthening Evanston. This strategic pillar translates into our grantmaking through our continued commitment to advance racial equity and trust-based philanthropy best practices.

ECF has dedicated this grant cycle to prioritize support to grassroots community groups and emerging nonprofits that demonstrate a strong commitment to racial equity in mission, vision, values, and work. This grant opportunity is designed to provide unrestricted, flexible general operating funding to support any and all expenses related to operating and sustaining work addressing systemic inequities in the Evanston Community.

Evanston Community Foundation Mission Statement

Our mission is to mobilize community resources to drive systemic social change and build a thriving, resilient Evanston. We achieve this by:

- Investing in community with a long-term and sustainable perspective
- Empowering leaders to foster innovation and collaboration
- Prioritizing community voice and choice

Funding Priorities

We fund community partnerships that:

- Address a systemic inequity in the Evanston Community
- Led by, for, and with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)¹ and prioritize community voice and choice.

¹ ECF uses the term BIPOC to highlight the unique history of oppression and continual, systemic discrimination that Black and Indigenous people experience within a U.S. context. These systems, built on white supremacy culture, impact all People of Color. As such, ECF prioritizes organizations led by and/or centered on the voices of Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Asian community members, and those impacted by multiple intersectional systems of oppression

Eligibility

This checklist will help applicants evaluate eligibility for this grant opportunity. Please review the following information carefully before beginning an application:

- Who can apply:
 - Applicants must fit in one of the following categories:
 - a) **Emerging Nonprofits**: 501c3 organizations, 501c6 organizations, local schools, local government, and community organizations with a fiscal sponsor.
 - b) **Grassroots Community Groups**: Any group of community members working together to address a community need – no 501c3, 501c6 or fiscal sponsorship required.
- Applicants must have an operating budget size of \$500,000 or less
- Applicants must have an Evanston address and serve the Evanston community through their work and mission
- Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment and presence in Evanston to serve the community
- Applicants must demonstrate strong commitment to racial equity through the organization's mission, vision, values, and work

Funding Guidelines

- Applicants may submit requests up to \$25,000
- This grant term runs 12-months

This grant opportunity will not support:

- Organizations who have already received a Spring 2024 Nonprofit Growth and Sustainability General Operating grant
- Endowments
- Fundraising or sponsorship of one-time events
- Scholarships
- Requests for individual benefit
- Faith-based institutions that appeal for solely religious purposes and do not serve the general community.

Evaluation Criteria

At ECF, we practice community-led grantmaking meaning that we intentionally shift grant decision making power to the Evanston community. The grantmaking committees are comprised of individuals of diverse identities and lived experiences who all live, work, play, and learn in the Evanston Community. These are individuals deeply connected to the issues we are trying to address through our grantmaking and who have shown meaningful civic engagement and learning. Applications will be evaluated using the following core criteria that reflects ECF mission, vision, values, and commitment to racial equity:

- Vision and Plan
- Racial Equity and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Practices
- Evanston and Community Impact
- Systems Change

How to Apply

Application:

- Application Open to Applicants: Thursday, August 1, 2024
- Application Due: Friday, August 30, 2024

You can find all applications, including questions and materials, in [ECF's online grant portal](#) starting on Thursday, August 1, 2024

Grant awards for this opportunity will be announced in November 2024.

Applicants must submit all application materials through ECF's online grant system (GLM). Applicants can submit application materials at any time while the grant period is open. Please view the Calendar for all important application dates and deadlines.

We invite applicants to attend any of the following optional upcoming Community Information Sessions and Workshops or schedule a 1:1 consultation for this grant opportunity with an ECF Program Officers. You can register through the following links:

- August 1, 2024 12PM – 1PM (CST): Virtual Community Information Session #1 (English - Zoom)
 - [Register Here!](#)
- August 1, 2024 5PM – 6PM (CST): Virtual Community Information Session #2 (Spanish - Zoom)
 - [Register Here!](#)
- August 6 11AM – 1PM (CST): Virtual Workshop Grant Writing Best Practices and Budget Preparation with Liz Jansen of [Women Unite!](#) (English with live simultaneous Spanish interpretation – Zoom)

- [Register Here!](#)
- August 12, 2024 12PM - 1PM: Virtual Community Information Session #3 (Spanish - Zoom)
 - [Register Here!](#)
- August 12, 2024 5PM - 6PM: Virtual Community Information Session #4 (English - Zoom)
 - [Register Here!](#)
- Virtual One-on-one Consultations with ECF Program Officers (English and Spanish – Zoom)
 - [Request a One-on-one Consultation Here!](#)

We understand that preparing and submitting an application is an investment of your time and resources. Please note that ECF will not be able to fund all requests received through this grant opportunity and cannot guarantee funding to any applicant.

If you would like to request access to a computer or assistance at any point throughout the application process, please reach out to ECF Program Officers valdesdelvalle@evanstonforever.org and/or beltrano@evanstonforever.org