ECF uses a theory of change evaluation system as a tool for learning. You will create a theory of change for your program.

Here is an example that you can use as a guide – and then log on to our grant management system and click on "grants evaluation" to submit.

Impact

You will need to describe the impact your program will have on the community.

Definition: The big changes that your program aims to create (or your desired end result)

Questions to Consider: *What does success look like? What is the long-term change we wish to see?*

Example:

Evanston middle school aged children of all socioeconomic statuses will reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

Outcomes

You will need to list the anticipated outcomes of your project. We recommend 3-4 outcomes.

Definition: Intended results within the short-to-medium-term.

Questions to Consider: *How will the program participants benefit or change as a result of our program?*

Examples:

1. Youth will avoid risk-taking behaviors.

2. Youth will attend school regularly.

Note: *Often the terms goal, objective, and outcome are used interchangeably.*

Strategies

You will need to list strategies for implementing this project. We recommend 4-6 strategies.

Definition: The specific activities, interventions, and/or services that serve a specific audience (including action steps and a timeline)

Question to Consider: *What activities will help us achieve our outcomes?*

Examples:

1. Recruit 30 new mentors by publicizing opportunities in at least 3 publications by Aug. 31st.

2. Develop curriculum that assists students in developing relationships, gaining self-confidence, building skills necessary for academic success, and avoiding risk taking behaviors by Aug. 31st.

3. Train and match 30 new mentors by Sept. 30th.

Note: *Strong strategies are concrete and have clear timelines.*

Indicators

You will need to list indicators for assessing your project. We recommend 3-4 indicators. Indicators should be quantifiable, such as percentage (%), number (#), or dollar amount ($).

Definition: Measurable aims of what your program is trying to achieve that show progress towards your outcomes

Question to Consider: *How will we know we have accomplished our outcomes?*

Examples:

1. Evanston youth served through the program will show improvement in the following areas, as reflected in the pre- and post-programming survey:
- 80% will change attitudes regarding risk trending towards avoidance (benchmark: 65% last year)
- 90% will report positive feelings toward mentee match (85% last year).

2. Bi-weekly reports will show a 50% decrease in truancy (40% last year).

evanston!communityfoundation

Please use this worksheet to outline your program's theory of change: impact, outcomes, strategies, and indicators of success. These will be included in your grant agreement, as well as your interim and final reports.

Impact	Definition	Questions to Consider	Example	Your impact statement:
Impact You will need to describe the impact your program will have on the community.	**Definition:** The big changes that your program aims to create (or your desired end result)	**Questions to Consider:** What does success look like? What is the long-term change we wish to see	**Example:** Evanston middle school aged children of all socioeconomic statuses will reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally.	
Outcomes You will need to list the anticipated outcomes of your project. We recommend 3-4 outcomes.	**Definition:** Intended results within the short-to-medium-term.	**Questions to Consider:** How will the program participants benefit or change as a result of our program?	**Examples:** 1. Youth will avoid risk-taking behaviors. 2. Youth will attend school regularly. **Note:** Often the terms goal, objective, and outcome are used interchangeably.	**3-4 Outcomes** 1. 2. 3. 4.
Strategies You will need to list strategies for implementing this project. We recommend 4-6 strategies.	**Definition:** The specific activities, interventions, and/or services that serve a specific audience (including action steps and a timeline)	**Question to Consider:** What activities will help us achieve our outcomes?	**Examples:** 1. Recruit 30 new mentors by publicizing opportunities in at least 3 publications by Aug. 31st. 2. Develop curriculum that assists students in developing relationships, gaining self-confidence, building skills necessary for academic success, and avoiding risk taking behaviors by Aug. 31st. **Note:** Strong strategies are concrete and have clear timelines.	**4-6 Strategies** 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Indicator You will need to list indicators for assessing your project. We recommend 3-4 indicators. Indicators should be quantifiable, such as percentage (%), number (#), or dollar amount ($).	**Definition:** Measurable aims of what your program is trying to achieve that show progress towards your outcomes	**Question to Consider:** How will we know we have accomplished our outcomes?	**Examples:** 1. Evanston youth served through the program will show improvement in the following areas, as reflected in the pre- and post-programming survey: - 80% will change attitudes regarding risk trending towards avoidance (benchmark: 65% last year) - 90% will report positive feelings toward mentee match (85% last year). 2. Bi-weekly reports will show a 50% decrease in truancy (40% last year).	**3-4 Indicators** 1. 2. 3. 4.