

EVANSTON CRADLE TO CAREER
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT and BOARD RESOLUTION

Evanston Cradle to Career is a community-wide collective impact initiative. We are committed to the vision that by age 23, all Evanston young adults will be leading productive lives, building on the resources, education, and support that they and their families have had to help them grow into resilient, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, and socially responsible adults. By signing this contract, all organizations are willing commit to the beliefs and the commitments outlined below.

Beliefs

1. We believe that no single organization can accomplish the Evanston Cradle to Career vision alone.

We believe that achieving large-scale social change requires a systematic approach and better cross-sector coordination.

2. We believe in common guiding principles.

We believe that equity, shared responsibility and resources, collective impact, community engagement and development, positive support structures, and holistic learning and growth provide the basis for our collective work.

3. We believe collective impact requires participants to have a shared vision.

We believe that vision is one that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed-upon actions. We commit to using collaborative language in the communication of processes and outcomes achieved, and to recognizing the collective impact when publicizing activities and outcomes stemming from this effort.

4. We believe in developing trust and cooperation through deep communication.

Deep communication is needed to build enough experience with one another to recognize and appreciate the common motivations behind each of our efforts. We believe that developing trust and efficiently coordinating activities requires continuous interaction between participants.

5. We believe that reaching our objectives requires long-term and realistic time commitments.

We believe that being realistic about the time it will take to enact real, tangible change is imperative. It takes time to create an effective infrastructure that allows everyone to work together and make progress. The scope of the issues being addressed, the degree of existing collaboration, and the breadth of community engagement all influence the time required to achieve our objectives.

Commitments

6. We commit to active participation in at least one of the working groups.

We will identify at least one role to play in the actual implementation and achievement of objectives through active engagement in a strategy that develops from within at least one working group.

7. We commit to share data with appropriate confidentiality and security protocols in place, and use it to reflect on practices.

We commit to entering into data sharing agreements so partners can collect necessary information while maintaining the appropriate confidentiality of individuals we serve. The collection of data allows for measuring results, ensures that all efforts remain aligned, and enables participants to hold each other accountable and to learn from each other's successes and failures. Transparency of processes and evaluations will ultimately determine the success of our collective impact initiative.

8. We commit to support the collective impact initiative with our organizational funds.

We commit to incorporating initiative costs in our annual budget, at a level commensurate with the overall budget of our organization. This financial commitment is evidence of our faith that this initiative will enable us to achieve the mission and/or goals of our organization.

9. We commit to regular meeting attendance.

The staff that is entrusted with decision-making in their organization must commit to attending at least two meetings per month.

10. We commit to demonstrate dedication through active, thoughtful participation in planning and executing initiatives.

Participants commit to actively engage in the creation and implementation of programming to achieve our shared vision.

11. We commit to follow through with achieving our long-term, shared vision.

In order to effectively and substantially impact the Evanston community across all agreed-upon outcome measures spanning education, health, and community metrics, all participants agree this ideally will be a 10+ year commitment.

Participant Signature:	Date:
Title:	

Board Resolution In signing below, the Board Chair is acknowledging that the Board has taken action.	
Date of Board Action:	
Executive Officer / Board Chair Signature:	Date:
Organization:	