

**Guidelines: Evanston Cradle to Career Action Plans**

**Background**

Evanston Cradle to Career (EC2C) is one of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago’s Neighborhood Networks. As such, EC2C receives operating support for its work. Beginning in 2017, EC2C is also the recipient of United Way funds intended to further advance the systems change work of EC2C’s collective impact efforts. For FY18, this is anticipated to be a total of $172,500. $157,500 will be distributed through the process described in these guidelines. The remaining $15,000 will be used by the developing EC2C parent advisory team to directly address neighborhood issues.

The EC2C Operations Team designated Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) to develop and manage a system to distribute these funds in order to advance EC2C goals. Proposed action plans are due September 15, 2017. Funding is for a period from November 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

**EC2C Mission**

Evanston Cradle to Career works to ensure that by the age of 23, all Evanston youth will be on the path to leading productive, satisfying lives.

**Goals**

This opportunity is focused on investing in efforts that **address the systems and structures in our community that create barriers to equitable access and opportunities for all children and their families.** These **system change** efforts work by altering the structures and mechanisms which make the system operate, including policies, routines, relationships, resources, power structures, and values.

Proposed action plans must advance EC2C’s underlying principles of equity, shared accountability, collective impact, community engagement and development, positive support structures, leveraged resources, and holistic learning and growth.

**EC2C’s action and work teams have prioritized the following four goals as the focus for proposed action plans. Potential strategies are not limited to those listed below the goals:**

* **Evanston is an equitable community.**
* Ongoing training and support around equity
* Working across organizations to support equity within organizations and in the community
* **Children of diverse backgrounds are ready for and will experience success in kindergarten.**
	+ Creating assessments to better capture the picture of “readiness” and the definition of success
	+ Creating regular system of direct feedback between early childhood and kindergarten teachers and school administrators
	+ Using data to improve curriculum and outcomes for early childhood programs.
* **Parents and caregivers have their basic needs met and have the resources they need to support their children’s development.**
	+ Continuing development of *Talk, Read, Sing* community-wide campaign in conjunction with health care providers and home family visitors in Evanston
	+ Creating a coordinated referral system to connect families to family home visiting programs
	+ Collaboratively creating universal waiting list among providers to assess eligibility, communicate openings, and fill open slots across Evanston early childhood providers
* **Children and their families in Evanston experiencing barriers to a good quality of life receive timely, effective, trauma-informed care via a coordinated, accessible, and trusted system of providers.**
* Building a system of coordinated intake and referrals with follow-up, to make access to services and eligibility more streamlined
* Expanding trauma workshop model
* Working toward all Evanston organizations being trauma-informed

**Qualifications**

* Only EC2C partners are invited to submit action plans. At least three EC2C partners must collaborate on each submission.
* Please identify one partner to serve as a “distribution manager” to accept and manage the fund distribution.
* Applicants must either be 501©3 organizations, schools, or government entities.

**Funding Parameters**

* Proposals can be submitted for distributions of $5,000 to $50,000.
* It is anticipated that funding will be distributed across each of the four goal areas.

**How and When To Apply**

* Action plan distribution guidelines released August 1
* Proposed Action Plans due September 15
* Decisions by November 1
* Allocation period is November 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018

**Questions for Action Plan Submissions** (download a template at <https://evanstonforever.org/ventures/collaborations/evanston-cradle-career/> to attach to eGrant application).

1. Describe the systems change effort being proposed.
2. What challenge is this effort addressing? What is the change you seek to accomplish?
3. How does this effort advance equity in our community? How does this effort ensure access and break down barriers in Evanston?
4. Who are the partners? What are their roles? What resources, experience, and/or expertise do these partners bring to Evanston and to this effort? Attach MOU’s and/or other agreements.
5. How will the work be implemented and accomplished? What is the timetable? (Remember the funding period is November 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.)
6. How will the impact of this effort be measured? What is the relationship between this and one of the key goals EC2C is committed to addressing?
7. How will this work be sustained after the funding period?

Attachments:

MOUs and partnership agreements

Project budget: template at <https://evanstonforever.org/ventures/collaborations/evanston-cradle-career/>

Budgets and actuals for most recent fiscal year of all partners

**Submit Action Plan Proposals and Project Budget on eGrant**

[**http://evanstoncf.egrant.net**](http://evanstoncf.egrant.net)

**Questions?**

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