

evanston!communityfoundation

2018 RESPONSIVE GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OUR MISSION

Helping Evanston thrive now and forever as a vibrant, inclusive, and just community, the Evanston Community Foundation builds, connects, and distributes resources and knowledge through local organizations for the common good.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The Evanston Community Foundation makes investments in organizations and projects that advance the following strategic goals:

- An Evanston that is inclusive and equitable for all
- An empowered and engaged community that collaborates across sectors to define problems and work on solutions
- A thriving nonprofit sector
- Realizing the long-term sustainability of organizations and community efforts

QUALIFICATIONS

- Any group or organization providing services to Evanston residents may apply for a grant. All proposals must address issues, concerns or opportunities in the Evanston community.
- Applicants must either be 501(c)(3) organizations, schools, government entities or they must have a fiscal sponsor that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the IRS.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate inclusive practices leading to diversity of their boards, staff and constituents.
- Applicants must seek diverse funding sources and have a plan to sustain their program beyond the term of the grant.

FUNDING PARAMETERS

- Request amount may be between \$5,000 - \$20,000. Last year, the average grant was \$12,825. Grant awards may partially or fully fund a proposal request.
- Grants are typically made for one year (July 1 to June 30). In some cases, a grant supporting a project that was funded in the previous year may be made in a second or third consecutive year if the applicant proposes enhancements to the project.
- Current and former grantees and/or previous applicants to any ECF grants program are eligible and encouraged to apply.
- We do not fund general operations; endowments; fundraising events or sponsorship of events; appeals for religious purposes (though faith-based organizations may apply for projects benefitting the general community); or individuals. We are unlikely to fund capital campaigns or one-time conferences, performances or events.

FUNDING AREAS

We request proposals that address one or more of the Foundation's four strategic goals, as listed above, representing any aspect of the Evanston community including, but not limited to: arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, early childhood education/early learning, education, environment, family support/counseling, health, housing, seniors, workforce development, or youth.

We have particular interest in work that furthers:

- The goals of Evanston 150: <http://evanstonforever.org/ventures/collaborations/evanston150/>
- Evanston Cradle to Career goals: <http://evanstonc2c.org/>

TYPES OF GRANTS

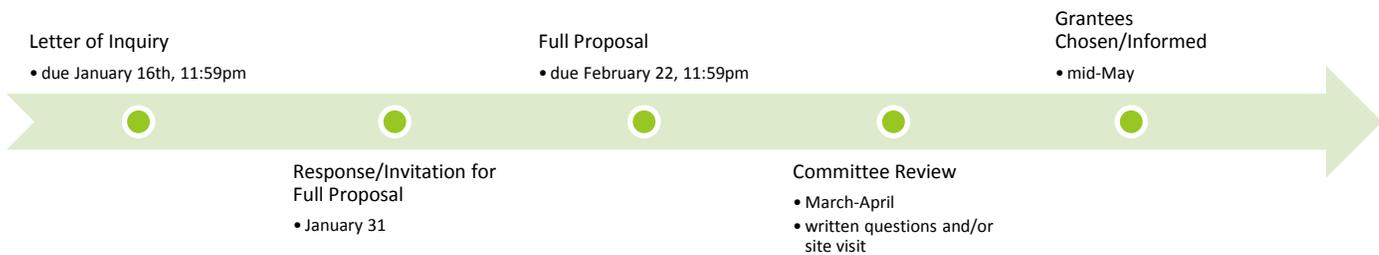
Capacity building: organizational initiatives that focus on building infrastructure to support an organization's long-term growth and development to better fulfill its mission (e.g. strategic plans, racial equity audits and training, board and/or staff development, technology upgrades, revenue-generating staff positions).

Program: continuing improvements to proven programs or projects that strengthen an organization's ability to fulfill its mission and show long-term impact, new initiatives, pilot projects, bridge funding, and capstone funding. We encourage collaboration.

HOW TO APPLY

- The first step is to submit a brief Letter of Inquiry by January 16, 2018 at 11:59pm.
- After review, selected organizations will be invited January 31 to submit a full proposal by February 22 at 11:59pm.
- Grantees will be chosen and informed by May 25.

Letters of Inquiry and proposals must be submitted through eGrant: <http://evanstoncf.egrant.net>. The questions posed in the Letter of Inquiry and proposal are listed at www.evanstonforever.org/responsivegrants. If you need access to a computer or need assistance submitting online, please contact our office: 847-492-0990.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each proposal submitted to ECF is carefully screened and reviewed by a committee made up of community representatives and board members. Proposals are rated according to the following criteria:

1. ECF Strategic Plan: To what degree does the grant request further ECF's strategic goals?
 - *Equity*: An Evanston that is inclusive and equitable for all
 - *Collaboration*: An empowered and engaged community that collaborates across sectors to define problems and work on solutions. Proposals will be rated according to how well the roles and responsibilities among all collaborative partners are articulated and the strength of documentation supporting the collaboration/partnership.
 - *Thriving Nonprofit Sector*: Build organizations' infrastructure in support of long-term growth, sustainability, and better mission fulfillment
2. Sustainability: To what degree is the project likely to be sustainable and "live on" beyond the grant period? How does the organization intend to continue the funded program/project after the Foundation's support ends? Does the organization have philanthropic support from its Board or leadership?
3. Long-term Impact: To what degree will the investment strengthen the capacity of the organization to achieve long-term results? (capacity building) To what degree will the project have a long-term impact on Evanston? (program)
4. Organization Suitability: How well does the organization demonstrate an understanding of the challenge and opportunity in Evanston, specifically the current Evanston resources available and the population served? Does the organization demonstrate their capacity and qualification to undertake this work? Is the organization making steps towards a leadership reflective of the demographics it serves? How does this proposed program fit within their mission? (program) Will it advance their ability to extend their mission? (capacity building)
5. Goals, Measurement Plan, Timeline: Are there specific and realistic goals, a basis on which to track progress and measure success, and a reasonable timeframe?
6. Clear and Realistic Methods and Budget: Is it clear how this grant will be implemented? Is the implementation plan realistic? If applicable, does the proposal address the recruitment of participants and strategies to break down barriers of participation for underrepresented communities? If applicable, has the organization selected a suitable vendor? Is the project budget appropriate to the goals? Does the organization have a solid plan to fund the remainder of the project?

QUESTIONS? OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP.

Contact Rebecca Cacayuran, Program Officer at (847) 492-0990
grants@evanstonforever.org or visit www.evanstonforever.org