



2021 Organizational Growth & Sustainability Grants

One of Evanston Community Foundation's goals is to support a thriving nonprofit sector in Evanston. For nonprofits to thrive, they must have the ability to support ongoing work and build their capacity.

These grants are focused on **organizational capacity** and **sustainability**.

Our Funding Priorities

Through this grant, there are two main funding areas:

Capacity Building Grants: Funding specific projects that support an organization's long-term growth and development

Operating Support Grants: Offering unrestricted flexible funding to support an organization's sustainability

Proposal and Grant Timeline

Grants are for a 12-month cycle.

Application Due: September 20, 2021 **Grantees Notified:** November 15, 2021

Application Due: March 7, 2022 **Grantees Notified:** By April 15, 2022

Funding

Through the *Growth and Sustainability Grant* program, we fund:

- One-year grants with a maximum amount of \$25,000 and not more than 10% of organization's operating budget
- Up to one *Growth and Sustainability Grant* during a 12-month period

Who Can Apply

Any group or organization providing services to Evanston residents can apply for a grant. All proposals must address issues, concerns, or opportunities in the Evanston community.

Additionally, applicants must fit in one of the following categories:

- 501(c)(3) organization

- An organization that has a fiscal sponsor that qualifies as a 501(c)(3) organization

New applicants, current grantees, former grantees, or previous applicants to any ECF grants program are eligible to apply. While your organization is only eligible for one *Organizational Growth & Sustainability* grant per 12 month period, your organization may apply for other ECF grants during the same year.

Please note, we do not fund:

- Endowments
- Fundraising events or sponsorship of events
- Religious-based projects (though faith-based organizations may apply for work benefitting the general community)
- Individuals

How To Apply

You can find all application questions and materials and submit an application through ECF's [online grant system, which you can access through www.evanstonforever.org](http://www.evanstonforever.org).

For all narrative questions, tell us briefly and directly about your idea, those you will serve, and why your group is the best fit to make the project happen. Do not worry about phrasing things just right.

If you need access to a computer or help submitting your application online, please contact us grants@evanstonforever.org or 847-492-0990.

The grants committee will announce grantees by Monday, November 15, 2021.

	Capacity Building Grants	Operating Support Grants
What Each Grant Funds	<p>Projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective planning efforts • Technology upgrades and improvements (<i>You may not purchase computers or other hardware with these funds</i>) • Racial equity assessment and training • Program evaluation • Collaborative strategies, including grants to build new strategic alliances • Merging with or acquiring other non-profits 	<p>Organizations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate effectiveness • Define expected outcomes for their overall work
Criteria the Committee Considers	<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How your organization has the capacity to carry out its mission • Movement towards leadership that reflects the demographics of the people you serve • How funding will strengthen capacity of your organization to achieve long-term sustainability and results <p>Goals, Measurement Plan, and Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific and realistic goals, ways to measure progress and success, and reasonable timelines • The ability of the project to extend the organization's mission • How the grant will be implemented and whether it is realistic • If applicable, the suitability of any outside vendors related to the project or plans to choose vendors • If applicable, plans to fund the rest of the project 	<p>Operating Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How your organization has the capacity to undertake its mission • Movement towards leadership that reflects the demographics it serves • Leadership's vision and plan for the organization <p>Budget and Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board's role in strategic planning, fundraising, and oversight • Strength of your organization's financial systems to track income and expenses and reflect the goals and outcomes of the organization • Position in the community to meet its mission and collaborate with others

	Capacity Building Grants	Operating Support Grants
Documents To Submit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Total operating budget for current and prior fiscal years including revenue sources (if you have it) <input type="checkbox"/> A project budget using the provided form, including the total cost of project and sources of other funding received to date <input type="checkbox"/> Page 1 of two most recent 990s (for your organization or fiscal sponsor, unless your organization is brand new) <input type="checkbox"/> A brief budget narrative to address any significant variances in the annual operating budget or actuals (if needed only) <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of support from any partners you are collaborating with on this project <input type="checkbox"/> Overview of Board and staff demographics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Total operating budget for current and prior fiscal years including revenue sources (if you have it) <input type="checkbox"/> Page 1 of two most recent 990s (for your organization or fiscal sponsor, unless your organization is brand new) <input type="checkbox"/> A brief budget narrative to address any significant variances in the annual operating budget or actuals (if needed only) <input type="checkbox"/> Overview of Board and staff demographics

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

Questions? Our staff is here to help. Contact Karli Butler, Program Officer, at grants@evanstonforever.org or visit our website at www.evanstonforever.org.

Reference: Narrative Grant Questions

Capacity Building Questions

1. What is your organization/group's mission and scope of work in Evanston?
2. What resources, experience, and/or expertise does your organization bring to Evanston? What other groups or organizations address this need/challenge? How does your organization complement these other efforts in Evanston?
3. Project summary and description
4. What are your organization's overall goals?
5. How will this project effort help develop your organization?
6. Why is this project important at this time?
7. How will this project be implemented? What is the timetable?
8. What are the specific goals of this project? What will indicate a successful outcome? How will you measure the degree to which your organization has been strengthened?
9. With this increase in capacity, how will your organization be positioned to better serve Evanston?
10. If this project is focused on collaboration, strategic alliances, or a potential merger, tell us about the other organizations involved. (Note: letters from those organizations confirming their engagement must be attached to this application.)
11. We are committed to advancing racial equity. Tell us about the makeup of your board, staff leadership, and overall staff. Please tell us how the voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color are an integral part of your overall decision-making process and program development.

Operating Support Questions

1. What is your organization/group's mission and scope of work in Evanston?
2. What resources, experience, and/or expertise does your organization bring to Evanston? What other groups or organizations address this need/challenge? How does your organization complement these other efforts in Evanston?
3. How will this organizational support grant strengthen your organization's overall capacity? Why is this support important now? What will you be able to do more of or better with this support than you are now doing?
4. Describe your staff leadership structure. If you have a leadership succession plan, please describe it.
5. Describe your board's engagement in strategic planning, fundraising, and organizational oversight.
6. Does your organization have a strategic plan? How is it being implemented? What is your organization's vision for impact and growth over the next three years?
7. What are the outcomes you use to measure organizational impact? How do you measure them?
8. We are committed to advancing racial equity. Tell us about the makeup of your board, staff leadership, and overall staff. Please tell us how the voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color are an integral part of your overall decision-making process and program development.

