

**2018 Guidelines: Evanston Cradle to Career Action Plans**

***Revised: Please note***

* ***New due date September 7, 2018***
* ***15 month grant period: October 15, 2018 to December 31, 2019***
* ***New funding parameters: $5000 to $65,000***

**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.

**Overview**

On behalf of the Evanston Cradle to Career (EC2C) initiative, Evanston Community Foundation invites proposals from EC2C partners that address the initiative’s first shared bold goal:

*Increase the district-wide kindergarten readiness score to 85% by 2025 by creating and strengthening*

*equitable, supportive, accessible systems for pre-k children and their families in Evanston,*

*significantly increasing racial and ethnic parity for African American and Latinx children.*

**The key question is what can we do as a community to support families in their children’s earliest years of development?**

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.

Three of EC2C’s action and work teams have particularly focused on goals that relate to supporting families to promote kindergarten and school readiness:

* Parents and caregivers have their basic needs met and have the resources they need to support their children’s development.
* Children of diverse backgrounds are ready for and will experience success in kindergarten.
* 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.

**Some Examples to Get Ideas Flowing**

These examples are offered strictly to show the variety of possible opportunities and are in no way meant to be prescriptive:

* Building a system of coordinated intake and referrals with follow-up, to make access to services and eligibility more streamlined for families with young children
* Advancing work toward the goal of Evanston as a trauma-informed community
  + Convening organizations and individuals interested in both growing food and addressing food insecurity to create a networked approach
  + Improving coordination among health care providers, home family visitors, and other services to better support families
  + Engaging parents of young children in canvasing within their neighborhoods and social networks to identify opportunities for creating more responsive community supports
  + Developing a plan for a larger pool of available financial support for enrollment in early childhood programs

**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 $65,000.

**How and When To Apply *(NOTE REVISED DUE DATE AND ALLOCATION PERIOD)***

* Action plan distribution guidelines released May 3
* Proposed Action Plans due September 7, 2018
* Decisions by October 8, 2018
* Allocation period is October 15, 2018 to December 31, 2019

**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?
6. How will the impact of this effort be measured? What is the relationship between this and the bold goal of increasing kindergarten readiness?
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

**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 FY19, this is anticipated to be approximately $150,000 to $200,000. For a second year, the EC2C Operations Team has designated Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) to develop and manage a system to distribute these funds in order to advance EC2C goals.

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

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

**Questions?**

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