

**Advocates For Action , Evanston Cradle to Career**  
**Community Building Grant Guidelines**  
**Applications Due: November 14, 2019 no later than 11:59pm**

Advocates For Action is a community leadership council formed by **Evanston Cradle to Career**. The goal of EC2C is to ensure that all Evanston youth are successful and that they and their families are supported by the community. Advocates For Action serves this mission by advocating for systemic equity, taking action on issues impacting our community, and pursuing life- enhancing opportunities for Evanston families.

**Community Building Grants**

Community Building Grants support individuals and groups who want to make their local communities better places to live and raise families. Local communities might be just one block or a larger neighborhood area or a group of community members who have shared experiences (for example, families who have children with special needs).

Community Building Grants range from \$250 to \$1,000 to support projects and ideas that bring people together, share skills and knowledge, and help make Evanston a place that helps children and their families.

Projects must be free, accessible, and welcoming to all. Groups cannot charge entrance fees, request donations, or fundraise at the proposed activity.

Applicants must attend a workshop offered by Advocates for Action before applying.

Individuals or groups who received grants in previous cycles must sit out two rounds after their grant was awarded. For example, those who received grants in January 2019 are not eligible again until May 2020.

**Community Building Grants Projects:**

- 1. Connect, engage, and increase neighborhood residents' sense of belonging and responsibility.**  
*Examples - Neighborhood Potlucks, Block Parties, Earth Day Activities, Community Clean Ups, Clothing and Toy Swaps*
- 2. Celebrate the talents and knowledge of local residents and spread that knowledge.**  
*Examples - Cooking or craft demonstrations and lessons, Storytelling events, Community language lessons, Community Gardening.*
- 3. Respect and celebrate residents' diversity.**  
*Examples - events celebrating neighbors' different cultural traditions in food, art, or music.*
- 4. Give youth the opportunity to take on community leadership roles.**  
*Examples- youth-led community dialogues, youth-led advocacy campaigns, youth-led entrepreneur workshops.*

### **Who can apply?**

- Applicants must live in Evanston.
- Individuals, small volunteer-based neighborhood and community groups (Established non-profits and businesses cannot apply).
- Individuals and groups who have not received a grant in the previous two rounds.

### **What should I know about the Community Building Grant budget?**

- Grant request can be for \$250 to \$1,000. The review committee can recommend funding for less than the request.
- Create a budget that determines the actual cost of items/services to be used and how they relate to the activities.
- Grant money can be used to pay people for specific services to help with the project but this cannot be more than 35% of the total budget.
- The group awarded a grant is responsible for keeping receipts to account for project costs.
- If a project is a public event that will need a permit and/or liability insurance, those costs can be included in the budget.

### **What are the criteria the Advocates for Action and Evanston Cradle to Career reviewers use to determine which grants to award?**

- Does this project fit one of the four project types listed above?
- Will this project improve the local community?
- Do the activities being proposed fit the goal of the project?

**Please note: Evanston Community Foundation receives grant applications on behalf of the EC2C Advocates For Action.**

## Community Building Grant Application

Name of Group or Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Contact Information:

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Amount requested: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check which of the grant categories your project first (check as many as apply):**

- Connect, engage, and increase neighborhood residents' sense of belonging and responsibility.
- Celebrate the talents and knowledge of local residents and spread that knowledge.
- Respect and celebrate residents' diversity.
- Empower youth to take on community leadership roles.

**Tell us what you want to do:**

**How will this project improve the local community for Evanston families and their children?  
Who will benefit from this project?**

**How will this project happen? Tell us the timeline.**

**How will you know if this project made a difference?**

**What else would you like the committee to know?**

