

Advocates for Action, Evanston Cradle to Career

Community Building Grant Guidelines

Applications Due: November 14, 2019 no later than 11:59 pm

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 serve 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 \$1000 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 can't charge entrance fees, request donations, or fundraise.

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

Individuals or groups who received grants in previous cycles are not eligible until the third cycle 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 and engage neighbors/Increase neighborhood residents sense of belonging and responsibility.**
Examples - Neighborhood Potlucks/Block Parties, Earth Day Activities, Community Clean Ups, Clothing and Toy Swaps
- 2. Share skills and knowledge, these projects 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 are creating an event celebrating neighbors' different cultural traditions in food or art or music.
- 4. Give youth the opportunity to take community leadership.**
Examples are youth-led community dialogues; youth-led advocacy campaigns, youth-led entrepreneur workshops.

Who can apply?

- Applicants must live in Evanston.
- Established nonprofits and businesses cannot apply. These grants are specifically for small volunteer-based neighborhood and community groups
- Individuals and groups who received a grant in either of two previous cycles cannot apply.
- A representative of the applying group or project must attend one of the grant workshops offered by Advocates for Action.

What can be included in the Community Building Grant budget?

- Grant request can be for \$250 to \$1000. The review committee may recommend funding for less than the request.
- When creating a budget, determine the actual cost of items to be used.
- Grant money can be used to pay people for specific services to help with the project (also called an honorarium). Total honorariums can't 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/Evanston Cradle to Career reviewers use to determine which grants to award?

1. Does this project fit one of the four project types listed above?
2. Will this project improve the local community?
3. 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.

**Evanston Cradle to Career Advocates for Action
Community Building Grant Application**

Name of Group or Project: _____

Individuals Involved:

Names and contact information

Amount requested: _____

Which workshop did a representative of your group or project attend?

October 12: _____ **October 29:** _____ **November 7:** _____

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?

When will this project happen? Tell us the timeline.

What else would you like the committee to know?

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

Connect and engage neighbors. Increase neighborhood residents' sense of belonging and responsibility.

Share skills and knowledge with the community. Celebrate talents of local residents.

Respect and celebrate residents' diversity.

Give youth the opportunity to take in community leadership.

