



Port Houston Community Grants Program

2024 Grant Recipients

1. Carothers Coastal Gardens

Program: Carothers Community Garden Greenhouse

Location: Shoreacres & La Porte

Funding amount: \$23,600

Overview: Funding is requested to construct a 625 sq. ft. permanent greenhouse, utilizing an existing steel skeleton at the community garden site (formerly utilized as Public Works storage area by the City of Seabrook). The greenhouse will enable volunteers to greatly increase seasonal yields of fresh vegetables which are donated to local food banks, providing more healthy choices for low-income citizens in our community. The greenhouse will also be used to propagate a rich variety of colorful, native pollinator plants that will be donated and planted by volunteers to enhance the city's public garden spaces.

2. Houston Community Toolbank*

Program: School Beautification and Tool Lending

Location: Houston & Harris County

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Overview: In an effort to direct resources into our local community, the ToolBank focuses on connecting with schools in-and-around the Port to provide cleanup and beautification support to enhance their outdoor spaces. The Houston ToolBank will continue to grow their School Program through "Tool School", in addition to the school beautification and greenspace improvement projects currently being conducted.

3. City of Pasadena's Neighborhood Network

Program: Team Up to Clean Up

Location: Pasadena

Funding Amount: \$15,000

**denotes previous grant recipient*



Overview: This program is designed to assist Pasadena homeowners with outdoor and exterior home projects, that may otherwise go unfinished due to physical or financial hardship. The funding for this program will be used for various projects such as providing residents and properties with new paint, cleaner yards, working window A/C units, and safe access points in and out of their homes.

4. Exploration Green Conservancy

Program: Native Tree Planting & STEM Education Program

Location: Clear Lake City

Funding amount: \$20,000

Overview: This project will plant 700 native trees and/or shrubs in Exploration Green and provide environmental and STEM educational opportunities for students (including students at Title 1 schools). The project location is within Explorations Green's 200-acre nature preserve and plantings will be done in small groups with each group led by an experienced Texas Master Naturalist. The funding for this project will allow procurement of trees/shrubs of various species and maturity levels to provide diverse habitat for native fauna. Ongoing care of the trees and shrubs and maintenance of the irrigation systems will be provided by EGC staff and volunteers.

5. Houston Habitat for Humanity*

Program: Affordable Homeownership Program

Location: Clinton Park

Funding amount: \$35,000

Overview: The requested funds will support their Affordable Homeownership program in building one single-family home and helping one low-income family in the Clinton Park area become homeowners. Houston Habitat's Affordable Homeownership program partners with low-income families to address the many challenges of homeownership beyond the current availability of reasonably priced homes. Programs prepare potential homeowners with 6-12 months of instruction that includes 50 hours of financial literacy education in credit counseling, financial planning, and other services related to homeownership as well as coaching in homeownership responsibilities and home maintenance counseling.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



6. El Centro de Corazón*

Program: East End Food Insecurity Collaborative Project

Location: East End

Funding amount: \$30,000

Overview: El Centro de Corazón seeks to improve community health in Houston's East End through a new East End Food Insecurity Collaborative Project by increasing access to healthy foods for low-income children, adults, and families through food assistance vouchers and collaborations with healthy food source partners in areas adjacent to Port Houston. With two health center locations in the surrounding zip codes of Port Houston, El Centro proposes to utilize grant funds to strategically decrease food insecurity, increase healthy food access, and improve consumption of fresh produce for its patients.

7. North American Marine Environment Protection Association

Program: Adopt A Ship Program in the Greater Houston Port Community

Location: Greater Houston & East End

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: Recognizing the importance of education in cultivating future leaders in the maritime industry, NAMEPA aims to introduce the Adopt A Ship Program to the Greater Houston Port community. This program, which is already thriving on an international level, bridges the gap between classrooms and the maritime industry, sparking curiosity and passion for the maritime world in our youth. The Adopt A Ship program aims to bridge this gap by offering a unique educational curriculum, as well as direct interaction with seafarers aboard vessels.

8. Community Family Centers*

Program: Pathway to Success

Location: Magnolia Park & Second Ward

Funding amount: \$25,000

Overview: This program will provide a 9-month long after-school program for 80 students in the Austin High School feeder pattern. Youth are offered age-appropriate STEAM-based activities as well as their Positive Action curriculum and academic enrichment. The after-school program offers homework assistance, daily tutoring in a small group environment focusing on math, reading, writing, computer skills, and essential technologies that enhance leadership skills, communication, and problem solving.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



9. The Center for Pursuit

Program: Pathway to Employment for those with Intellectual Development Disabilities

Location: East End and Greater Houston

Funding amount: \$15,000

Overview: The Employment Services program provides customized employment planning assistance for transitioning youth and adults with IDD, autism, or similar conditions. The primary goal is to help motivated individuals find success in competitive, integrated, and community-based employment in areas of their interest. Employment services work with individuals who have been underserved and underemployed to remove limitations and barriers to job placement and job sustainability.

10. The Rose*

Program: Empower Her Health Program

Location: East Harris County

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: The overarching goal of the Empower Her Program is to save lives and ensure that uninsured and medically underserved patients receive the same access to care as their insured counterparts. The program covers the cost of screening services as part of an annual well-woman checkup as well as diagnostic care. While The Rose's Empower Her Sponsorship Program (Empower Her) is geared toward women, they also serve men through the program.

11. Houston International Seafarers Center

Program: Houston International Ship Visitor School

Location: Houston Ship Channel

Funding Amount: \$4,200

Overview: The Houston International Seafarers Center to host and conduct the only training course in North America for Seafarer Ship Visitors, called the Houston School. The course is 7-days long, is hosted by HISC in conjunction with the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA), and provides classroom and hands-on experience in humanitarian services, mental health awareness training, counseling and emotional support, and various resources and networking opportunities.

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12. Houston Community College Foundation*

Program: Strategic Development for Maritime Logistics

Location: Greater Houston

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Overview: HCC's goal for the program is the strategic development and expansion of its Maritime Logistics, Transportation, Operations and Supply Chain Management program. The project will result in the development of up to six new Dual Credit, CTE certificate programs, and/or pre-apprenticeship programs across the Houston region through development, design, and implementation for the upcoming academic year. The program will also utilize the Maritime Logistics and Global Supply Chain two certificates program of studies by adding the industry career internship and or pre-apprenticeship for seniors to bridge their workforce career for a period of one additional semester to year.

13. Capital IDEA Houston*

Program: Workforce Development in Maritime, Logistics & STEAM Professions

Location: Greater Houston

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: CIH will leverage funding to support students in logistics, maritime, supply chain management, and STEAM fields, as well as build five new employee and training partnerships. CIH offers training and college preparation, financial assistance, and wrap-around support services to assist underemployed adults in earning college degrees or accreditation/certification, and then obtaining in-demand jobs with higher pay, benefits, and advancement opportunities, in over two dozen fields. CIH program will support 40 participants in obtaining industry certifications in logistics, maritime, supply chain management, and STEAM fields.

14. SER-Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast, Inc.*

Program: Momentum Education STEAM Career Success Mentorship Program

Location: East End

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Overview: SERJobs will provide CDL (Commercial Driver's License) training and wraparound services to train and prepare forty of Greater Houston's in-need and

**denotes previous grant recipient*



underserved residents for well-paying transportation jobs in the region. Seventy-five individuals will be navigated for services, with sixty receiving career coaching and fifty receiving job readiness training and job search assistance. All participants will receive a combination of services designed to maximize their personal and professional potential.

15. SPARK Park*

Program: SPARK Parks

Location: Houston ISD

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Overview: The SPARK School Park Program works with public schools to re-develop their aging playgrounds into new community parks with inclusive equipment. The SPARK Parks at Gallegos Elementary and Mc Reynolds Middle School are located in park deserts and are in great need of reSPARKing, as the play equipment is over twenty years old and creates safety issues for the students.

16. City of La Porte

Program: Five Points Park Revitalization Program

Location: La Porte

Funding amount: \$25,000

Overview: The Five Points Park Revitalization Program is a community-driven initiative focused on improving the quality of life for residents, as well as stimulating economic growth. The City of La Porte is dedicated to the revitalization of the Five Points Park Plaza, a key element of their historic downtown area and a central location for city events. Currently, the park offers ample space and seating, but it lacks interactive features and modern amenities to attract children, families, and individuals. Their priority with this initiative is to transform Five Points Park into a welcoming retreat that can be enjoyed year-round.

17. Second Servings of Houston

Program: Building a Healthier Community Through the "PopUp Grocery Store" Program

Location: Houston & East End

Funding amount: \$10,000

Overview: The PopUp program provides access to fresh food conveniently, right at participating affordable housing sites, community centers, and neighborhood churches.

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People rely on proximity, since many live in food deserts and lack easy access to transportation. Shoppers also appreciate the wide assortment of fresh food, which they often can't afford and don't ordinarily receive at food pantries or in food bank boxes. Their PopUp sites reach low-income families and adults, seniors, veterans, active-duty military, the disabled, students, immigrants, refugees, and recently housed adults, and include people of virtually every age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The PopUp program, which represents about 40% of their regular daily operations, impacts about 100,000 struggling Houstonians annually.

18. Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Program: Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston

Location: East End and Harris County

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Overview: Through Meals on Wheels, Interfaith Ministries delivers nutritious, fully prepared meals to an average of 5,600 homebound seniors in Harris County each day. To receive meals, the individual must be a homebound senior age 60 or over or an adult with disabilities who has difficulty with one or more activities of daily living. If they qualify, they receive a home visit to further assess their nutritional and non-nutritional needs. The program works with the client to create a service plan that helps them maintain or improve their health and remain independent in their own homes.

19. Neighbors in Action*

Program: Community Service Projects in Port Houston

Location: East End & Turning Basin Communities

Funding Amount: \$7,200

Overview: The Community Service Project includes multiple service projects implemented by elementary, middle, and high school students from the neighborhoods near Port Houston over the course of a year. The project will be kicked off in July when Neighbors in Action will host a Community Service Week for middle and high school students. Through the various community projects, volunteers are not only enhancing the beauty of their neighborhood but also fostering a sense of unity and service among themselves. From refreshing paint at the local park to organizing clean-up efforts, every initiative adds a touch of care and dedication to the community.

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