



Community Grants Program

2026 Grant Recommendations

1. Women Offshore Foundation

Program: Career Development Program

Location: East End & Houston

Funding amount: \$25,000

Overview: The Women Offshore Foundation's Career Development Program supports women pursuing credentialed maritime and offshore careers through free, individualized career coaching and need-based financial assistance for required credentials. By reducing the cost of certifications and providing guidance on career pathways, the program helps remove barriers to workforce entry in the maritime and offshore industries. The requested funds will help expand the CDP program to serve an additional 50-60 Houston area participants.

2. Second Servings of Houston*

Program: Expanding Access to Nutritious Food

Location: Port Houston & Greater East End

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Overview: Second Servings provides underserved populations with convenient, cost-free access to nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste. With Port Houston's support they will expand their Pop-Up Grocery Store program and food deliveries, increasing access to high-quality rescued produce and groceries for food-insecure families and individuals in convenient community locations, helping reduce food insecurity and transportation barriers.

3. Friends of Galena Park Branch Library

Program: Career Exploration and Resume Hub

Location: Galena Park

Funding Amount: \$2,500

Overview: The Career Exploration and Resume Hub is a workforce development initiative designed to empower Galena Park residents with the tools and resources they need to achieve their career goals. Located within the library, the hub features three core components, a Resume Bar for professional resume support, a Career Discovery Zone for career exploration in port related industries, and a Career Resource Library.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



4. The Rose*

Program: Empower Her Health Program

Location: East Harris County

Funding amount: \$25,000

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 preventive care 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.

5. Small Places

Program: Finca Tres Robles Apprenticeship Program and Food Access

Location: Greater East End

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: Small Places is dedicated to improving community health by increasing access to fresh, locally grown food and creating economic opportunities through urban agriculture. Through their Farmer Apprenticeship Program at Finca Tres Robles, Small Places aims to provide year-long paid training for three local residents each year, helping remove financial barriers to careers in agriculture while building a locally rooted workforce. Apprentices contribute directly to increasing production and access to fresh, affordable food, helping address food insecurity, improving community health, and developing a stronger local workforce.

6. Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Houston*

Program: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Location: Greater Houston

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Overview: Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Houston provides a home away from home, supportive services, and hope for families with seriously ill or injured children. Support for this initiative will benefit the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM), a fully equipped pediatric clinic on wheels staffed by clinicians from Texas Children's Hospital, which delivers free high-quality medical care directly to underserved, school-aged children right in their own neighborhoods.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



7. City of Pasadena's Neighborhood Network*

Program: Team Up to Clean Up

Location: Pasadena

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Overview: Team Up to Clean Up 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 to reach additional homeowners and support revitalization efforts such as providing residents and properties with new paint, cleaner yards, and working window A/C units.

8. Prison Entrepreneurship Program

Program: PEP's Workforce & Entrepreneurship Empowerment Program

Location: East End

Funding amount: \$15,000

Overview: Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) transforms lives by connecting executives and former inmates through entrepreneurship, leadership development, and mentorship. PEP will utilize grant funds to provide comprehensive pre-release and post-release support, including character development, entrepreneurship education, employment training, and career placement services in Houston's East End. The program also supports participants in earning Commercial Driver's Licenses, creating career pathways to stable, in-demand careers in the trucking industry.

9. Galena Park Resource and Training Center

Program: The Community Learning and Engagement Program

Location: Galena Park

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Overview: The Galena Park Resource and Training Center is requesting funding to support its Community Learning and Engagement Program, an initiative designed to provide educational opportunities, workforce development support, and access to important community resources for residents of Galena Park and surrounding communities. Participants will engage in workforce-focused ESL instruction, digital literacy classes, skill-building workshops, and mentorship opportunities, gaining practical skills, and job readiness needed to achieve long-term success.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



10. Segundo Barrio Children's Chorus*

Program: El Abrazo Musical: Solidarity and Security in Houston's Segundo Barrio

Location: East Harris County

Funding amount: \$20,000

Overview: Segundo Barrio Children's Chorus (SBCC) transforms the lives of children and families through tuition-free access to music & arts education as well as community building performance opportunities. This program will provide a year-round after-school program for children from under-resourced households. In addition to after school music programs, SBCC offers a summer music camp and engages youth through public performances.

11. Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation*

Program: East End Community STEM Literacy Initiatives

Location: East End

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Overview: Funding is requested to support the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation in expanding STEM literacy and hands-on learning opportunities for children in Houston's East End by increasing access to books, STEM activities, and structured summer learning. The investment will support three targeted initiatives serving students at Gallegos Elementary, Carrillo Elementary, and Community Family Centers, all located in Port Houston-adjacent neighborhoods.

12. Baytown Habitat for Humanity

Program: Baytown Safe and Stable Homes Repair & Resilience Initiative

Location: Baytown

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: Baytown Habitat for Humanity provides safe, affordable housing solutions for hardworking families in the Baytown area through a community-based model that blends volunteer engagement, financial education, and partnership housing. Through this targeted home repair and stabilization program Baytown Habitat for Humanity will complete critical repair projects, serving approximately 40 to 60 residents within communities near the Houston Ship Channel. Eligible repairs include accessibility modifications, structural stabilization, weatherization and energy efficiency improvements.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



13. Neighbors in Action*

Program: Learning Center Renovation Project

Location: Port Houston Community

Funding amount: \$20,000

Overview: The project includes the renovation of Little NIA, the original home where Neighbors in Action began, into a dedicated Learning and Community Support Center. This trusted space in the Port Houston community will support access to tutoring, youth leadership development, adult education, workforce certifications, counseling services, and emergency assistance, helping meet the growing needs of more than 750 community members served by NIA each year.

14. Houston ToolBank*

Program: Tool Lending Program

Location: Houston & Harris County

Funding amount: \$12,500

Overview: The Houston ToolBank reduces financial barriers for eligible organizations by providing affordable access to a shared inventory of tools and equipment. With Port Houston's support, the ToolBank will continue serving more than 1,050 nonprofit partners, through its lending program, Neighborhood Tool Hubs and delivery services, helping organizations save resources, fill critical gaps, and increase their community impact.

15. Friends of Pasadena Public Library

Program: Building Careers: Pathways to Advancement in Industrial Construction

Location: Pasadena

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Overview: This project will provide library access to NCCER (National Center for Construction Education & Research) trainee guides for construction and maintenance training and certification. These resources will help construction workers prepare for NCCER exams, a critical step toward advancing into foreman and leadership positions. Participants will also be connected with career support services, including advisors who assist with financial aid applications, resumes, and job applications.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



16. SPARK*

Program: SPARK School Park Program

Location: Pleasantville

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Overview: The SPARK School Park Program works with public schools to re-develop their aging playgrounds into new community parks with inclusive equipment. SPARK will install a park project at Pleasantville Elementary, a campus with a significant need of reSPARKing. As part of this effort, SPARK will relocate nearly new playground equipment to the school, creating a welcoming and refreshed space for students, families and the surrounding community.

17. Fit Houston, Inc.

Program: Revitalization of Mason Park

Location: Greater East End

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Overview: Fit Houston seeks to create free community wellness programming and to also enhance the beauty and community ownership of Mason Park. Allocated funds will support walking groups, fitness classes, their FitText program, and a community wellness mural project that promotes health, celebrates neighborhood culture, and enhances this important public greenspace.

18. Houston Symphony Society

Program: Student Concert Series Program

Location: Greater Houston

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Overview: The Houston Symphony is a world-class performing arts organization dedicated to inspiring and engaging diverse audiences through exceptional musical performances and educational programming. Serving more than 43,000 students annually across hundreds of schools, the Houston Symphony Student Concerts, are designed to provide students in grades 4-8 across Greater Houston with access to high-quality, live orchestral music education and experiences, regardless of socioeconomic or geographic barriers.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



19. Art League of Baytown

Program: Arts and the Ship Channel

Location: Baytown

Funding Amount: \$7,250

Overview: This program will feature an art exhibit showcasing local artists' interpretations of the relationship between nature and industry along the Houston Ship Channel. Local artists will be recruited to create artworks, highlighting the beauty of the natural environment and how it coexists with industry. The exhibit will increase community awareness and appreciation of the unique beauty surrounding the 52-mile waterway.

20. Compudopt*

Program: Compudopt Pathways Program

Location: East End

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Overview: Compudopt will implement cohorts of their Pathways Program, a workforce-aligned technology enrichment experience that equips young adults with digital skills and professional development to prepare them for high-demand careers in the digital economy. This program will serve 45 participants, and upon completion graduates will receive a computer to support their continued learning and career development, along with support to further education, internships or apprenticeship programs, and employment opportunities.

21. Citizen's Environmental Coalition

Program: Environmental Outreach and Education Crew

Location: Greater Houston & Greater Fifth Ward

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: The Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC) will establish the Environmental Outreach and Education Crew to address gaps in access to environmental information, preparedness resources, and community engagement. The Crew initiative will deliver environmental education directly into communities through consistent, in-person outreach. Topics will focus on air quality, recycling, and clean waterways, connecting residents to actionable information that supports environmental health and stewardship.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



22. Target Hunger*

Program: Food Assistance and Navigation Program

Location: Denver Harbor & East End Communities

Funding Amount: \$12,750

Overview: Target Hunger is requesting support for their Food Assistance and Social Service Navigation Programs, an integrated model designed to meet immediate food needs while addressing the underlying causes of chronic hunger. Through food pantries, food fairs, and one-on-one coaching, these programs address immediate needs while helping individuals and families build pathways toward long-term stability.

23. Houston Area Urban League

Program: Project Elevate

Location: Greater Houston & Harris County

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: With Port Houston's support, Project Elevate will provide a comprehensive workforce development program for unemployed and underemployed adults, with a focus on Opportunity Youth ages 16–24 who are seeking pathways to livable-wage careers that do not require a four-year degree. The program responds directly to Houston's growing demand for skilled talent in the energy, construction, and technology sectors by equipping participants with industry-aligned skills, recognized credentials, and direct connections to employment opportunities.

24. Greens Bayou Coalition*

Program: Paddling for a Cleaner Greens Bayou

Location: East Houston

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Overview: The Greens Bayou Coalition is an organization devoted to preserving, revitalizing, and enhancing the Greens Bayou: a crucial floodwater drainage corridor with parks, trails, and recreational spaces. Funding is requested to finance guided paddling excursions with the goal of contributing to restoration by removing trash, educating the public on the local ecosystem, teaching water safety and paddling techniques from instructors, and inspiring lifelong environmental stewardship.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



25. Lee College Foundation

Program: Lee College Logistics Software Expansion

Location: Baytown

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Overview: Lee College requests funds to implement Tooling U online simulation and industry-based training modules within the Logistics & Supply Chain Management program. The simulation modules will provide students with hands-on, scenario-based training in trucking, and intermodal transportation systems that support port operations. The training will help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world workforce needs while strengthening the talent pipeline for the regional maritime and trucking industry.

26. The Women's Resource

Program: Women's Workforce Access & Employer Engagement Initiative

Location: Deer Park & East Harris County

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Overview: The Women's Resource is dedicated to helping women and girls make choices toward becoming independent, productive, and financially stable. The funding for this project will help expand workforce and financial stability services into East Harris County communities near the Houston Ship Channel. Support is requested to serve women through targeted outreach, employer engagement, and integrated support such as community classes, individualized coaching and employer engagement.

27. Houston International Seafarers Center*

Program: Houston International Ship Visitor School

Location: Houston Ship Channel

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Overview: The Houston International Seafarers Center hosts and conducts the only training course in North America for Seafarer Ship Visitors, called the Houston School. This 7-day program 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. Additionally, funding will also be used to offset transportation costs, supply daily meals, and provide classroom materials.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



28. Armand Bayou Nature Center*

Program: Title I School Field Trip Access

Location: Pasadena

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) protects and restores 4,000 acres of rich ecological wetland forest, prairie and bayou habitats. The ABNC Field Trip Program is designed to remove financial barriers for Title I schools and their students through subsidized field trips that will inspire students to explore environmental science and maritime career pathways. Grant funding will support the expansion of their program, enabling ABNC to provide 7 to 12 immersive three-hour field trips serving 75 to 120 students per trip.

29. Kids' Meals, Inc.

Program: Kids' Meals 2026 Healthy Meal Delivery Program

Location: East Houston & Greater Houston Area

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: Each weekday, Kids' Meals provides free, healthy, home-delivered meals for more than 12,000 food-insecure preschool-aged children and through collaboration provides their families with resources to help end the cycle of poverty. Support from Port Houston would benefit the children and help Kids' Meals sustain their expanding operations of providing meals to Houston's most desperate children in the Ship Channel area.

30. Career Gear Houston

Program: Project Campus Closet

Location: Pasadena, La Porte & Baytown

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: Career Gear Houston is dedicated to advancing economic mobility by equipping men with the tools, training, and professional attire needed to secure and sustain employment. Through the expansion of its Project Campus Closet model, Career Gear Houston will serve students at San Jacinto College's Maritime and Central campuses and Lee College. This initiative will establish on-campus professional attire boutiques that eliminate financial and transportation barriers, ensuring students have access to interview-appropriate clothing and career readiness resources.

**denotes previous grant recipient*



31. La Porte ISD

Program: Elementary STEM Academies

Location: La Porte

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Overview: La Porte ISD's Elementary STEM Academies empower students through equitable, hands-on STEM learning that builds critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and creativity. With support from Port Houston, the program will expand from serving students in grades 3–4 to all PK–5 students district-wide, significantly increasing access to career-connected STEM learning from an early age.

32. SER-Jobs*

Program: Building the Port Workforce

Location: East End

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Overview: SERJobs' Building the Port Workforce initiative prepares residents of port-adjacent communities for in demand construction and skilled trades careers that support the Greater Houston maritime, logistics, and industrial economy. Through this initiative, participants receive industry-recognized training in construction trades such as NCCER Core Construction, electrical, HVACR, and other high-demand skill areas, paired with OSHA safety credentials, job readiness training, and individualized career coaching. The initiative provides wraparound support services, employer engagement, and direct job placement assistance.

**denotes previous grant recipient*