

A young Black man with short, curly hair is smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing a mustard-colored, textured cable-knit sweater. He is leaning against the front of a white electric vehicle, with his hands resting on the handlebars. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The overall mood is positive and forward-looking.

EVOLVE

ELECTRIFYING TRANSPORTATION

EVOLVE HOUSTON GRANT GUIDELINES

Round 4 ('25/26 grant cycle)

HELLO!

Thank you for your interest in Evolve's Grants Program.

These one-time grants are designed to support grassroots projects in the Greater Houston area that enhance access to electric transportation solutions, create economic opportunities, and contribute to a sustainable, inclusive future for all.

The following document tells you everything you need to know about the grant application process, requirements, key dates, and shares a little bit about us.

ABOUT.....	3
ELIGIBILITY.....	4
EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	6
REVIEW PROCESS.....	7
GRANTMAKING PROCESS.....	8
SUPPORT & TIPS.....	9
APPLICATION CHECKLIST & KEY DATES.....	10
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs).....	11

EVOLVE

ABOUT

EVOLVE HOUSTON

Evolve Houston is a membership organization that unites community, government, and industry partners to create a cleaner, more connected Houston. We work to solve Houston's transportation challenges and expand access to clean, affordable, and reliable mobility options.

Since launching in 2022, Evolve Houston's Grants Program (formerly the eMobility Microgrant Initiative) has supported over 50 community-led projects, and we are excited to launch the fourth round of grants to continue this vital work.



[Click here to contact us about membership.](#)

CORPORATE CATALYSTS

This program is made possible by the continued support of our Corporate Catalysts, **General Motors** and **bp America**.

Your organization can expand this impact by supporting clean, accessible transportation in Houston. Partner with Evolve to help drive change.

WHY ELECTRIC MOBILITY

For decades, transportation planning has often overlooked the needs of low-income, minority, and frontline communities, creating disparities in mobility, access, and air quality. Residents in these areas often face higher levels of transportation-related pollution and longer, less reliable commutes that limit access to jobs, healthcare, and education.

Electric mobility (eMobility) projects offer an opportunity to address these challenges by:

Increasing access to and awareness of electric mobility options and EV charging infrastructure.

Expanding economic opportunities through workforce development to support transportation electrification and related industries.

Increasing connectivity to employment, healthcare, recreation, and other essential services, driving broader economic support and access.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources.

ELIGIBILITY

APPLICANT TYPE

Evolve's eMobility Grants are open to individuals, private organizations, nonprofits, collectives, and other community-led groups.

Priority will be given to applicants who can clearly demonstrate project governance and accountability in their application.

GEOGRAPHY

Funded projects must target residents in the Greater Houston area, including Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.

Priority will be given to projects impacting historically underserved neighborhoods as defined by Evolve Community Champions.

4

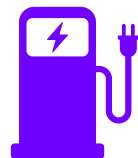
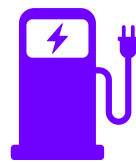
FUNDING SUPPORT

Nonexclusive list of eligible expenditures:

- Staff and personnel
- Organizational debt/financial solvency
- Equipment
- Infrastructure (+ O&M)
- Existing or new programming
- Training and expertise building
- Rent and mortgage
- Insurance premiums and deductibles

Nonexclusive list of ineligible expenditures:

- Damages covered by insurance
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services
- Legal settlements



ELIGIBILITY (CTN.)

FOCUS AREAS

Applicants must select one of the following eligible focus areas for their project proposal. Each focus area aligns with Evolve Houston's commitment to advancing equitable eMobility solutions in underserved communities.

Choose the category that best matches your project's goals:

eMobility Education and Awareness

Projects in this category should focus on raising awareness and providing educational resources about electric mobility options, the benefits of clean transportation, and how communities can participate in the energy transition. Examples include workshops, outreach programs, or digital campaigns to inform residents about EVs, e-bikes, and sustainable transportation choices.

Access to EV Infrastructure

Projects aimed at improving community access to electric vehicle charging stations, electric grid enhancements, or other infrastructure that supports the adoption of EVs. This may include expanding charging locations in underserved areas or addressing barriers to infrastructure installation.

Workforce Development / Economic Expansion

Initiatives designed to create job training, certification programs, or career pathways in the fields of electric mobility, such as EV maintenance, charging infrastructure installation, or other related services. The goal is to equip community members with skills and opportunities in the growing green economy.

Access to Clean Transportation (Micromobility)

Projects that increase access to micromobility solutions, such as electric bikes, scooters, and other small-scale electric transportation options. These projects aim to provide affordable, reliable alternatives to traditional transportation, particularly in areas with limited public transit access.

Access to Clean Transportation (Automobile-based)

This focus area targets projects that expand access to electric vehicles or EV-based transportation services, including rideshare or carshare programs. These initiatives should aim to make clean, reliable, and cost-effective transportation available to underserved populations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

MISSION MATCH

Does the project support Evolve Houston's program mission to drive electric mobility, reduce emissions, and enhance transportation equity in underserved communities? Proposals should emphasize sustainability and contribute to improved air quality.

EXECUTION RISK

Does the proposal present a clear, actionable project plan with realistic timelines, milestones, and a well-justified budget? Addressing potential risks and presenting mitigation strategies is essential for ensuring project feasibility.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Does the project engage frontline or historically underserved communities and incorporate local input? Strong community partnerships and solutions driven by the specific needs of local residents are highly valued.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Does the proposal define measurable success metrics and outline long-term benefits for the community? Proposals should demonstrate how they will track and evaluate these metrics over time, ensuring accountability and sustained progress.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Does the project primarily serve communities in the Greater Houston area, particularly those with the greatest transportation challenges? Targeting historically underserved areas with high mobility needs will receive priority.

EVOLVE

REVIEW PROCESS

1

INITIAL SCREENING

Applications are first screened by the Evolve team to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and align with the program's focus areas.

2

COMMUNITY REVIEW

Local community members (Community Champions) review and score the applications based on the program's evaluation criteria, prioritizing community impact and connection.

3

FINAL SELECTION

Top-scoring applications are reviewed by a selection committee composed of Evolve leadership, who make the final funding decisions.

4

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Successful applicants will be notified, and funding will be distributed according to their approved project timelines.

NOMINATE A COMMUNITY CHAMPION TODAY!

[Nominate yourself or someone you know to serve as a Community Champion here.](#)

Community Champions drive the selection of impactful projects that address mobility challenges in underserved communities. It's a unique opportunity to advocate for meaningful change and support local initiatives.

Please note: Community Champions will be required to complete a conflict of interest form before participating.



GRANTMAKING PROCESS

AWARD DETERMINATION

Evolve will send award notifications to Round 4 applicants no later than January 2026. After initial notices have been sent, selected grant recipients will receive additional communication from Evolve regarding next steps.

AWARD AMOUNTS

Grants are awarded up to \$15,000, depending on anticipated budget and project need. Award tiers are \$5,000, \$10,000, \$12,000, or \$15,000. Applicants should request the amount that best matches the scope and impact of their proposed project.

8

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Recipients are required to submit an initial action plan, provide regular progress updates, and complete an after-action report detailing the outcomes and impact of their project. Recipients must track and report their success metrics to Evolve throughout the project.

GRANT DISBURSEMENT

After onboarding is complete, project funds are distributed in several installments according to the timeline recipients outline during onboarding. This helps ensure funds are aligned with key project milestones. Projects funded in this round will typically begin in February or March of the following year.

**JOIN US IN SHAPING A CLEANER, MORE
CONNECTED HOUSTON**

APPLY HERE



SUPPORT & TIPS

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

The Evolve team provides application support via email and scheduled meetings or phone calls. To ask a question or request a meeting, please contact equity@evolvehouston.org.

For general questions, please review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Page 11.

Important Note: Grant platform emails may go to your spam folder. Please mark Salesforce/Evolve Houston as safe to ensure you receive all communications.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS BY FOCUS AREA

Every project is unique, but common issues often arise in certain types of proposals. These notes are not requirements, but they can help you plan stronger, more realistic projects.

eMobility Education and Awareness

- Do my lessons have clear takeaways that participants can use in daily life?
- Am I using a mix of formats and tailoring content for different audiences?
- How will I measure what participants learned and improve over time?

Access to EV Infrastructure

- Have I checked feasibility early by coordinating with utilities and charging providers?
- Am I accounting for permitting and local regulations that may add time?
- Who will use this infrastructure, and will it be publicly accessible and equitable?

Workforce Development / Economic Expansion

- Does my training connect directly to real jobs or certifications?
- Have I made the program accessible in terms of cost, location, and scheduling?
- Am I showing participants how this training leads to long-term career pathways?

Access to Clean Transportation (Micromobility)

- Do I understand local laws governing scooters, eBikes, and other shared mobility?
- Have I built in safety measures like helmets, training, or guidelines?
- How will I handle maintenance such as charging, repairs, or replacements?
- Where will equipment be stored securely to prevent theft or vandalism?

Access to Clean Transportation (Automobile-based)

- Do I understand the necessary insurance and licensing needed to execute?
- Am I complementing existing transit services instead of duplicating them?
- How will I ensure long-term reliability (i.e. budget for charging, maintenance, etc.)?

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Applicant Info**
Type, organization details, mission
- ✓ **Project Details**
Focus area, proposal name, summary, timeline, expected impact
- ✓ **Tracking & Barriers**
Success measures and risk mitigation
- ✓ **Contacts & Capacity**
Lead contact, leadership background, roles of key stakeholders
- ✓ **Funding & Budget**
Complete budget template provided; note additional funding sources
- ✓ **Community Connection**
Target community, outreach, benefits, sustainability of benefits
- ✓ **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**
Minimum 1 and up to 5; each with specific numerical outputs and units of measurement, clearly defined steps to achieve desired result

10

KEY DATES

APPLICATIONS OPEN	Monday, September 15, 2025
APPLICATIONS DUE	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
APPLICATION REVIEW	October - December 2025
AWARD NOTICES	By January 2026

EVOLVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply?

Individuals, nonprofits, community-based organizations, small businesses, and other community-led groups are eligible. You do not need to be a 501(c)(3) to apply.

Can I apply if I've received a grant in a previous cycle?

Yes. Past grantees are welcome to apply again. However, preference may be given to new applicants or projects with fresh approaches and strong community impact.

Can I apply for a grant and serve as a Community Champion?

No. To avoid conflicts of interest, you cannot apply for funding and serve as a Community Champion in the same cycle.

Can I apply as a college student or club?

Yes, but you must work with at least one faculty member to apply.

Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, but each application is reviewed separately, and proposals must be able to stand on their own to be selected.

Who can serve as the lead applicant?

The lead applicant may be an individual or organization. They are responsible for managing grant funds, project implementation, and reporting.

FAQs (CTN.)

APPLICATION PROCESS

I accidentally submitted before I finished. What do I do?

Contact equity@evolvehouston.org as soon as possible for assistance.

I drafted an application and changed my mind. What do I do?

If you leave your submission as a draft, it will not be reviewed.

How will my proposal be reviewed?

Applications are first screened by Evolve staff, then scored by Community Champions, and finally reviewed by a selection committee for funding decisions.

Can I still nominate a Community Champion?

Yes. We encourage you to share this opportunity across your network. Community Champions must complete a conflict of interest form, and anyone you nominate will be exempt from reviewing your application. Click [here](#) or visit bit.ly/EVHreviewer to nominate .

FUNDING & BUDGET

What are the funding amounts available?

Applicants may request \$5,000, \$10,000, \$12,000, or \$15,000. Choose the level that matches your project's scope and budget.

What if my project needs more than \$15,000?

You must identify other funding sources or build time into your project to finalize funding. Priority is given to projects with the greatest chance of completion (i.e., those that are fully funded).

How are funds disbursed?

Funds are distributed in installments based on the timeline recipients outline during onboarding. This ensures funding aligns with project milestones.

How do I submit my budget?

Applicants must complete and upload the required budget template provided in the application platform, broken down by expense category.

FAQs (CTN.)

What kinds of expenses are eligible?

Eligible costs include staff and personnel, equipment, infrastructure, programming, training, rent/mortgage, and insurance. Ineligible expenses include damages covered by insurance, legal settlements, or reimbursements for already-funded costs.

PROJECT PLANNING

What is the typical project timeline?

Projects should achieve measurable outcomes within 6 months of launch. Proposals with longer timelines will be considered, but the expected impact should be greater to be evaluated at the same level as shorter projects. Projects typically begin in February or March of the following year.

What makes a strong application?

Strong applications clearly respond to the **Evaluation Criteria** outlined in this guide and take into account the Key Considerations listed under **Support & Tips**. Specifically, reviewers look for:

- A clear community need and direct benefit
- Strong partnerships or stakeholder involvement
- Realistic timeline and budget
- Defined KPIs with measurable outcomes
- Long-term sustainability of benefits

What if I haven't identified my partners or key stakeholders?

You can still apply, but proposals are stronger when partnerships are clear. If partners are not confirmed, describe who you plan to engage and their expected role.

What if I want to install a charger but I don't know what's involved?

We recommend doing initial research before submitting your application. However, it's acceptable to build time into your project plan to finalize technical details or partnerships early in implementation.

FAQs (CTN.)

What is a KPI and how specific does it need to be?

A Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is a measurable outcome that shows your project's impact. Applicants must include at least 1 and up to 5 KPIs. Each should define an output and a unit of measurement (e.g., number of people served, jobs created, chargers installed).

How do I know if my community qualifies as underserved?

Priority is given to projects serving historically underserved communities as defined by Evolve's Community Champions. Applicants are encouraged to describe the demographics and needs of their target community.

REPORTING & SUPPORT

What reporting is required?

Recipients must submit an initial action plan, provide regular progress updates, and complete a final report. Progress will be measured through the KPIs submitted in the application.

What if I need help during the application process?

Support is available via email at equity@evolvehouston.org and through scheduled meetings or phone calls. Please see **Support & Tips** for details.

I didn't receive confirmation emails from the platform. What should I do?

Check your spam or junk folder. Be sure to mark Salesforce/Evolve Houston as safe to ensure you receive all program communications.

NEED TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT?

[Click Here to Register](#)

ALREADY HAVE AN ACCOUNT?

[Click Here to Log In](#)

EVOLVE