



## **INSPIRE CHANGE GRANT PRESENTED BY CONOCOPHILLIPS AND COCA-COLA SOUTHWEST BEVERAGES**

### **Funding Guidelines & Criteria**

#### **About the Initiative**

The Houston Texans Foundation leverages the power of football to strengthen our community, support youth development, and break down barriers to fundamental resources.

As part of this mission, Houston Texans Foundation is committed to supporting local organizations that are building a more equitable and just community today, so that Houston's youth may thrive as champions into the future. Together with our partners, we created the Inspire Change Grant in 2021 to fund programs, seed projects and create partnerships that unlock pathways to new opportunities and support social justice and racial equity efforts in Houston.

#### **Grant Size**

In 2024, the Inspire Change Grant awarded \$455,000 to 12 organizations across Houston. Grants range from \$10,000 - \$50,000.

#### **Funding Criteria**

- Applicants must have IRS 501c (3) status or they must be a registered school, university, or government entity.
- The organization must be nonpartisan in nature.
- The organization must be seeking funds for programs, projects, or partnerships that create opportunities and further social justice or racial equity efforts in the Houston area. Areas of focus include but are not limited to:
  - Education
    - Tutoring and educational enrichment in underserved schools and communities
    - Scholarships
    - Support for first-generation college students
    - Literacy services and resources

- Educational programs for youth
- Basic Needs
  - Food banks, soup kitchens, meal distribution programs
  - Homeless shelters, transitional housing, affordable housing initiatives
  - Programs that help with utility bills, heating, and cooling needs
- Criminal Justice Reform
  - Relational policing
  - Diversion and/or prevention programs
  - Support for children with incarcerated parents
  - Anti-recidivism support and re-entry services
- Workforce and Economic Development
  - Support for minority/women-owned businesses
  - Training and onramps to employment
- Community Resources
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Access to mental health support in underserved communities/schools
  - Homelessness supports and services
- The organization must serve the 18-county Greater Houston Area. Eligible counties include: Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, Robertson, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker, Waller and Washington.
- The organization must complete all sections/questions in the application.

### **Funding Priorities**

In an effort to make meaningful impact across the Houston area and to further our commitment to our community, the Inspire Change Grant applies additional weight during the evaluation process to the following:

- Organizations/programs that open doors to opportunity for those who may need them and break down barriers.
- Organizations/programs that serve historically underrepresented and underserved communities
- Organizations for which funding will have a transformative impact on those they serve and/or for which funding will significantly increase their capacity to impact the community.

- Organizations with leaders and staff who reflect the communities they serve and who, themselves, serve as inspiring role models.
- Organizations/programs that meet a critical community need.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

The Inspire Change Grant Fund will **not** consider the following:

#### **Activities:**

- Political campaigns that support or oppose any political candidate or party
- Lobbying for or against specific legislation, regulations, or policies
- Religious activities, although faith-based organizations may be eligible to receive funding for programs that benefit the broader community, regardless of religious affiliation
- Private individuals or businesses
- Entertainment or personal expenses such as travel or meals, unless they are directly related to the funded project
- Event sponsorships, fundraising events, and campaigns (e.g., conferences/seminars, galas, golf tournaments, annual awards ceremonies, raffles, telethons, walk-a-thons, auctions, endowments, memorial campaigns, parades, etc.)
- Retroactive costs that were incurred before the grant was awarded

#### **Organizations:**

- Organizations that discriminate based on a person's race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other ground prohibited by law ("protected status")
- Social, labor, alumni, and fraternal organizations (e.g., higher education alumni groups, sororities, fraternities, workers' unions, exclusive membership clubs limited to a specific constituency, etc.)
- Professional and amateur sports events, organizations, and teams (e.g., Little Leagues)
- Organizations that channel grant funding to third parties
- Organizations requiring a fiscal sponsor because they do not have their own 501(c)(3) status
- Organizations not in compliance with USA Freedom Act

### **Application Requirements**

- Applications must be submitted through the online portal.
- Requests must range from \$10,000 - \$50,000. *Proposals outside of this range will not be considered.*

Applications must include the following:

- Detailed description of the proposed program, project, or partnership, including how it will impact your organization and/or the community being served.
- A budget and timeline for the proposed program, project, or partnership. *Grant funds must be spent within a 12-month period from when grants are awarded.*

### **Application Timeline**

The application process for the Inspire Change Grant will be accessible through the Houston Texans Foundation website. Late applications will not be accepted.

August 4, 2025	Grant application launches
September 12, 2025	Grant application closes at midnight CT
November – December 2025	Grant recipients notified and grantees recognized at a Texans game
December 31, 2025	Grant recipients receive funds prior to this date

Applicants not selected for funding will be notified of the decision via email. We regret that we are unable to provide detailed feedback on individual applications.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Grant recipients will be required to submit progress reports to the Houston Texans Foundation on a yearly basis.

Progress reports will include information such as (but not limited to) the following:

- Progress made towards the program, project, or partnership goals.
- Challenges or obstacles encountered and how they were addressed.
- Description of the population served, with metrics of individuals impacted.
- Financial information detailing the use of grant funds.
- Stories or anecdotes that bring the grant to life.

The Houston Texans Foundation reserves the right to request additional information or documentation as necessary.

*Current grantees will not be eligible for future funding until a progress report is submitted.*

We appreciate the time and effort that you will invest in preparing your grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [Foundation@HoustonTexans.com](mailto:Foundation@HoustonTexans.com) if you have any questions or concerns about the grant review process. Thank you for your interest in the Houston Texans Foundation Inspire Change Grant presented by ConocoPhillips and Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages.