

Applicant Information

Instructions

- 1) Review the eligibility information, evaluation criteria, and award recipient requirements before completing the grant application.
- 2) Complete this **EVOlve Grant Application**. Compile and submit all necessary supporting documentation.
- 3) E-mail the complete application package to e-mobility@santeecooper.com with “**EVOlve Grant**” in the subject line.

The application package should include:

- a) **EVOlve Grant Application** (PDF)
 - b) Supporting documentation (specified in the **Application Checklist**). Compile attachments into a single PDF or attach as separate files.
- 4) Submit applications by the 11:59 pm EST **August 15, 2025**, due date.

EVolve Grant Information

Santee Cooper is pleased to make transportation electrification funding available to eligible commercial customers (as defined in the **Requirements and Eligibility** section below).

Funding Allotments and Maximums

The **applicant is responsible for all up-front costs associated with the project.** At project closeout, Santee Cooper will **reimburse** the applicant for eligible project costs ranging from 25 to 100 percent in one or more of the project categories provided in table 1 below up to a maximum of **\$25,000 of total funding**.

Table 1 breaks down the maximum funding percentage by project category:

Table 1. Maximum Funding by Project Category*

**Grant requests can combine one or more of the listed categories below*

Project Category	Maximum Santee Cooper Funding
Make-Ready Research / Needs Assessment	100%
Education / Outreach	100%
Electric Fleet Conversion	25%
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure	50%

The Preliminary Financial Summary section of the application reflects how the funds will be allocated to each project category to determine the reimbursement from Santee Cooper.

The example below shows a project that has an education/outreach component as well as an EV charging infrastructure component. In this example project, the applicant could apply for up to \$25,000 in funding from Santee Cooper.

Project Type	Estimated Costs	Maximum Santee Cooper Funding	Total Grant Request
Education/ Outreach	\$10,000	100%	\$10,000
EV Charging Infrastructure	\$30,000	50%	\$15,000
Total Grant Request			\$25,000

Requirements and Eligibility

Santee Cooper commercial customers on a GA, GB, GL, or GT rate are eligible to apply for the grant program. To be considered, applicants must:

- Submit a completed **EVOlve Grant Application** along with supplementary documentation (detailed in the **Instructions** and **Application Checklist**) by the posted deadline.
- Participate in program evaluation activities (e.g., surveys/questionnaires).

Eligible Expenses:

- New electric vehicle purchase (light-, medium-, or heavy-duty vehicles)
- Capital expenses directly associated with the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure (e.g., hardware and installation costs, make-ready costs, and upfront software license costs)
- Costs related to approved Education / Outreach
- Expenses related to Make-Ready Research / Needs Assessment

Ineligible Expenses:

The following costs are NOT eligible for reimbursement:

- Structural improvements or site preparation that would be considered general facilities maintenance (e.g., re-paving, upgrading an overloaded electrical panel, landscaping, etc.) not associated with EV charging infrastructure installation
- Construction bond costs, interest, and warranty charges
- Leased equipment (vehicles or charging)
- Vehicle or driver insurance
- Ongoing system or facility maintenance or repair costs
- Donated, in-kind or volunteer labor or materials
- Costs incurred prior to application submission (e.g., engineering designs, site evaluations, estimates/bids) Only expenses incurred after the application submission date will be considered
- Low Speed Electric Vehicles (Golf Carts, ATVs, etc.)
- Level 1 Electric Vehicle chargers (120-volt)

Project Examples

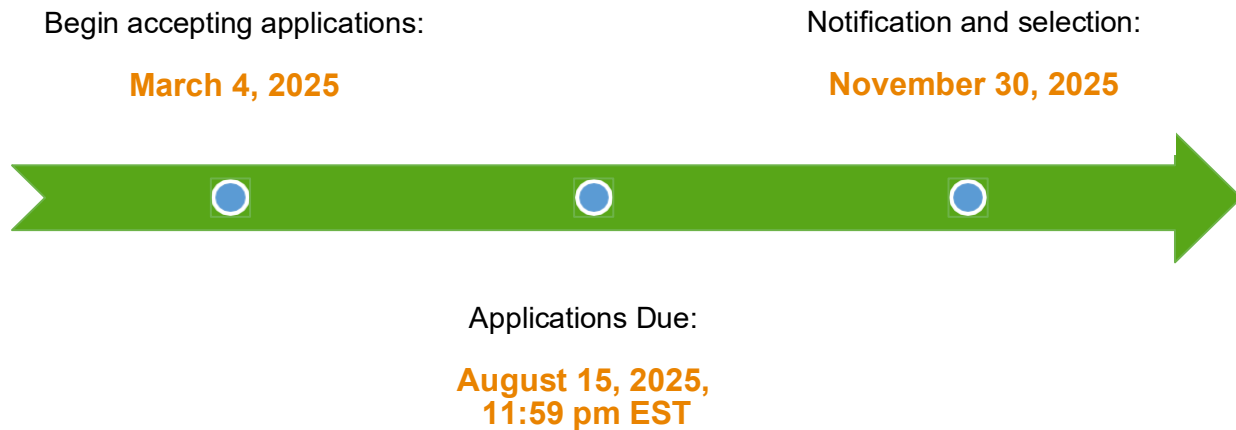
To adapt to a rapidly evolving market, there is flexibility in the types of projects considered for grant funding. **Table 2** shows potential project types. These project examples are illustrative and do not rule out alternative project proposals from consideration. You can apply for one or a combination of any of the project categories. Projects are not limited to the examples shown, but funded awards cannot exceed \$25,000 total.

Table 2. Project Examples

Project Category	Project Example
Education / Outreach	An applicant requests funding to create a special EV event (e.g., a university proposes a showcase for students, faculty, and community members).
	An applicant requests funding to create a public outreach program to educate local communities or groups about the environmental benefits of EVs.
Electric Fleet Conversion	An applicant requests funding to convert light-, medium-, or heavy-duty vehicle(s) from internal combustion engines (ICE) to electric vehicles (EV). This can be a single vehicle or part of a larger plan to electrify their fleet.
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	An applicant (e.g., multifamily property or business owner) requests funding to install EV charging infrastructure and provide charging as an amenity for use (e.g., public, workplace, etc.).
Make-Ready Research / Needs Assessment	An applicant requests funding for an assessment or study with the goal of expanding EV/electrification options and infrastructure (e.g., in a city, county, region, community, etc.).

Figure 1 shows the timeline for the current funding cycle.

Figure 1. EVOlve Grant Timeline



Grant Recipient Responsibilities

Grant recipients will serve as project lead and be responsible for project design, project management, equipment purchase and installation, awareness building, as well as the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining any charging equipment.

- Preference may be given to projects with:
 - The ability to collect and transfer data to Santee Cooper.
 - A specific focus on communities underserved by transportation electrification (rural communities, low-to-medium-income communities, low/medium-priced multi-family units, environmental justice communities, etc.).
- Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate how the EVOlve Grant is essential to funding the project.

Grant recipients will have one calendar year to complete projects from the date of award. Project extensions are not guaranteed but may be requested and approved at Santee Cooper's sole discretion.

Projects will be reimbursed after closeout up to the award amount for documented eligible expenses. Eligible expenses are limited by the **Funding Allotments and Maximums** and **Maximum Funding by Project Category** sections.

Application Evaluation

Santee Cooper uses an independent, third-party grant manager to review and score projects based on the criteria outlined in **Table 3** below.

Table 3. EVolve Grant Criteria

Criteria	Measures
Project Design and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project need has been clearly identified • Project serves the identified need and provides direct community benefits (economic, environmental, educational, and/or social) • Project benefits underserved communities (rural communities, low-to-medium-income communities, low/medium-priced multi-family units, environmental justice communities, etc.) • Partner and/or vendor engagement • Community input and engagement (e.g., residents, guests, workplace, public, etc.) • Key project elements included
Feasibility and Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viability of the project plan and timeline • Identified potential barriers and plan to address them • Technology aligns with the project goals
Costs and Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has demonstrated need for EVolve grant funding • Alignment of project costs with industry standards • Viability of the proposed budget • Financial risks are identified and mitigated

EVolve Grant Application

Interested applicants should complete and submit the grant application form below.

Applicant Information	
Name of Organization	Empower Volunteers
Santee Cooper customer account number	12345678

(If applicant is not the property owner, please complete the Landlord Consent Form and submit with application packet)	
Organization website address, if applicable	EmpowerVolunteers.com
Primary Project Contact Information This contact will be the primary point of contact responsible for project updates, reports, and coordination. Please notify e-mobility@santecooper.com as soon as possible if the primary contact changes.	
Name	Sandy Cooper
Title	Executive Director
Organization name	Empower Volunteer Foundation
Role in the project	Program/Volunteer Coordinator
Phone number	843-123-4567
Email address	Sandy@empowervolunteer.com
Additional Contact Information Provide the names of key staff involved and their contact information.	
Name Phone number Email address	Justin Case 843-555-5555 jcase@empowervolunteer.com
Name Phone number Email address	Norma Lee 843-444-4444 nlee@empowervolunteer.com
Additional Applicant Details:	
Type of applicant (Local Non-profit, Higher Education, etc.)	Local Non-profit

Name of individual completing application (Include affiliation and contact information if different from primary contact or contractor/installer)	Sandy Cooper
How did you hear about Santee Cooper's EVOlve Grant program? (Select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill insert <input type="checkbox"/> Online ad <input type="checkbox"/> Word-of-mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Santee Cooper website <input type="checkbox"/> Santee Cooper employee <input type="checkbox"/> News article <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Please verify that the project satisfies the <i>Requirements and Eligibility</i> provided above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that this project meets Santee Cooper's EVOlve Grant funding award eligibility requirements listed under Requirements and Eligibility .

Physical address where project will be implemented.

- Include facility name, street address, city, state, zip code, and/or GPS coordinates.
- If the project does not have a specific address, please explain the route, stops, or localized areas that the project will be serving.

123 Electric Avenue, Myrtle Beach, SC

Project Category

(Select all that apply. Your grant request can include one or a combination of any of the categories listed.)

- ☐ Education/Outreach
☒ Electric Fleet Conversion
☒ Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
☐ Make-Ready Research/Needs Assessment
☐ Other. Please explain:

Equipment Details

(Complete all that apply)

**For EVSE Projects
(Charging Infrastructure)**

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 2 | Quantity: | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DCFC | Quantity: | |
| Total Number of Ports | 1 | |
| EVSE Manufacturer Name and Model | Blink Series 6 Level 2 Charger | |
| Charging Accessibility
(Choose all the apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input type="checkbox"/> Workplace
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | |

	For EV Purchase Projects	
	Total Number of Vehicles to be Purchased	1
	Make and Model of Each Vehicle	Ford E-Transit Shuttle Van

Project Design and Benefits

Project Purpose

At a high level, provide a summary of the project and its purpose.

Expand access to critical transportation services for rural older, low-income, and medically compromised adults using an electric, ADA accessible vehicle that does not emit harmful tailpipe emissions.

Needs Addressed

What is the unmet need that this project will address? What is the evidence of that need?

In our community:

- **##% of adults and ##% of family caregivers are without basic needs**
- **##% of households are not getting the healthcare due to lack of transportation**

Having access to an EV will allow us to better serve the surrounding counties by providing rural and older, medically compromised adults with access to their healthcare needs. By reducing the cost of gas for our organization, we hope to be able to increase the amount of individuals we can transport to and from their medically necessary appointments. There is a lack of transportation in the rural counties we serve surrounding Myrtle Beach, which leads to high-risk individuals not having the access to care they deserve.

Benefits to the Community

How will this project meet that unmet need? Include environmental, economic, equity, and educational benefits to the community.

In the counties served, transportation, access to healthcare, and isolation are major issues:

- **##% of adults and ##% of family caregivers are without basic needs**
- **##% of households are not getting the healthcare due to lack of transportation**

Most of the rides given involve long distances and charging is typically cheaper than gas. When volunteers use a program's EV, they will significantly reduce program costs associated with the services for both the residents and volunteers. This project will reduce our carbon emissions, while prioritizing access to transportation for undeserved community members.

Provide a rough estimate for the project's expected utilization.

Provide an estimate of the number of people impacted by this project and describe how you estimated that number. Please refer to the examples below but provide answer(s) specific to your project.

(e.g., What contributed to the estimate? Are there EVs on site via visitation or residency and is that expected to increase? If this is an education or outreach event, how many people are expected to attend?)

Through this project we expect to:

- Increase the number of clients able to access transportation services through this program.
- Improve awareness of electric vehicles among volunteers, elderly, low-income, and community members with special needs.
- Offer a comfortable, safe, and environmentally friendly transport to residents for critical care.
- Get started on our goal to electrify and expand the impacts of our mission.

Describe the type(s) of data that will be available to share with Santee Cooper after implementation.

(e.g., interval energy consumption, average session duration, station usage by time of day, number of unique drivers, number of webinars, number of demonstrations, etc.)

The charger selected will have charging data available upon request. We collect metrics on ridership and destinations for reporting purposes. Feedback from the residents we serve could also be collected and shared.

Community Input and Outreach

How are you involving the communities beyond internal project team in project planning and execution? Provide input received from community groups related to the project. What events and communications are planned alongside the physical project? How will community groups be engaged during or after implementation?

Examples of "community" include residents, guests, workplace, public, etc.

Our advisory board includes clients, volunteers, and community partners who represent a variety of perspectives from the region we serve. Additionally, our volunteers and customers will provide feedback to help us improve the project and any similar future projects.

This project could introduce electric mobility options and offer a step towards greater mobility independence and options that may not otherwise encounter them.

The program's EV will have an indirect community impact. It will increase EV exposure and awareness as it drives through the local streets.

Additionally, as the program's volunteers drive the vehicle to complete program activities, they will increase their awareness of and potential for purchasing electric vehicles in the future.

Partner Organizations

Provide the names and describe their role in designing or implementing the project.

Our contractor Can-Doit Electrical is a small local business that volunteers with and believes in our mission. This company is giving our organization reduced cost services to benefit this project and our community. We will share the results at XYZ industry events. We partnered with other local non-profits Spark Messaging and Awareness and The Electric Center who are donating their time and services to conduct joint promotion, press releases, and a ribbon cutting ceremony to help us increase awareness of our services within our community.

Vendor(s)

List any vendors that will be enlisted in implementing the project. Provide the contact information for the contractor/installer/engineer for the project.

Can-Doit Electrical

Feasibility and Timeline

Project Timeline

Please provide your project timeline, indicating milestones, anticipated completion dates, and additional details.

Due to the current market conditions, demand, and availability, we believe there is a strong chance equipment procurement may be delayed. Our team planned for delays. We are already on a waitlist for a vehicle. If awarded, procurement of the vehicle and chargers will begin in July 2025 and begin serving customers by Q1 2025. Installation of the charger is targeted for January 2025 to help us complete the project within the one-year timeline required by the EVolve grant.

Timeline Risks and Mitigations

What possible risks do you foresee with implementing your project and meeting your outlined timeline? How will you mitigate those risks?

**The identification of risks and plan for mitigating them will not have a negative impact on your application.*

There is always a risk of timeline delays due to being on a waitlist for our EV. However, we believe we have done a great job of anticipating the delays by getting ourselves on the waitlist before receiving a grant award decision. Furthermore, we have already contacted a contractor to start the infrastructure progress. If the timeline for infrastructure or procurement is delayed more than anticipated, we plan to stay in close contact with Santee Cooper to be on the same page as far as the next steps go.

Technology

Why is this the right technology for this project? What needs are you considering in selecting the electric vehicle and charging infrastructure? If your project includes vehicles but no charging infrastructure, please describe your plan for charging the EVs.

As stated above, we have been working closely with our contractor for quality infrastructure planning. Can-Doit Electrical is not only familiar with the best charging infrastructure, but also the infrastructure needs of our area – due to our close proximity to the ocean. We have done thorough research and decided on Blink services for our chargers due to their high utilization across the nation.

When it comes to the vehicle itself, we are on the waitlist for a Ford E-Transit Shuttle Van. This shuttle van would allow us to have a wide range of configuration options for transporting passengers and wheelchairs.

Costs & Financing

The applicant is responsible for all up-front costs associated with the project. At project closeout, Santee Cooper will reimburse the applicant for eligible project costs ranging from 25 to 100 percent in one or more project categories up to a maximum of \$25,000.

Financial Structure

Describe the financial structure of the project. Who will own the assets? Where will they be located?

The project secured funding through additional sources (please see attached documentation confirming this). The remaining amount is being requested through this grant. The financial benefits are used by a nonprofit to provide a necessary service. All repairs, maintenance, etc. will be taken care of through our internal funding.

Cost to the Public

If the charging assets will be made publicly accessible, what will it cost the public to use the asset? What payment mechanisms are/will be made available?

(e.g. \$5 per hour, \$0.30/kWh, etc.)

N/A - this will be privately utilized for our transportation services.

Financial Risks

What possible financial risks do you foresee with implementing your project and meeting your outlined budget? How will you mitigate those risks?

**The identification of risks and plan for mitigating them will not have a negative impact on your application.*

The cost of both infrastructure and the procurement of an electric shuttle van is very expensive. However, we plan to remain as flexible as possible depending on the funding amount we receive. For example, if we receive less funding than we hope for, we can buy a cheaper but still dependable version of an electric shuttle van or explore used vehicle options.

Please explain why the EVOlve grant funding is critical to execute this project successfully.

Would this project be possible without grant funding? Why does your organization need this grant?

Without this grant's support, we cannot pay for and secure the equipment. As a non-profit, we rely on grants and donations to assist us with day-to-day operations and provide these services. Anything outside of our daily tasks requires additional financial

support. This project will not be possible without the EVOlve grant funding that is being requested or the award of a similar grant from a different source.

PRELIMINARY Financial Summary

Complete each section as it applies to your project with the estimated* costs.

Refer back to Table 1 above for the maximum funding percentage by project category.

Total requested grant funding provided by Santee Cooper not to exceed \$25,000. **Please refer to the list of eligible and ineligible expenses before completing this section.**

Example: Estimated costs of \$10,000 for Education/Outreach and \$30,000 for EV Charging Infrastructure results in Requested Grant Funding of \$10,000 (100%) for Education/Outreach and \$15,000 (50%) for EV Charging Infrastructure for a total of \$25,000.

**Supplemental documentation (e.g., bids, estimates) are required to support requested costs.*

Make Ready & Needs Assessment – up to 100%

Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	N/A
Estimated Costs	\$
Maximum Grant Funding	100%
Requested Grant Funding for Make Ready & Needs Assessment:	\$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot exceed estimated costs * maximum grant funding - Cannot exceed \$25,000 total

Education & Outreach – up to 100%

Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	N/A
Estimated Costs	\$
Maximum Grant Funding	100%
Requested Grant Funding for Education & Outreach:	\$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot exceed estimated costs * maximum grant funding - Cannot exceed \$25,000 total

Electric Fleet Conversion – up to 25%	
Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	Cost will help to cover purchase of one Ford E-Transit Shuttle Van.
Estimated Costs	\$ 65,000
Maximum Grant Funding	25%
Requested Grant Funding for Electric Fleet Conversion:	\$ 16,250 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Cannot exceed estimated costs * maximum grant funding</i> - <i>Cannot exceed \$25,000 total</i>
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure – up to 50%	
Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	Installation of 1 Blink Charger with 1 port for our electric vehicle. We will continue working with our local contractor to get the best deal possible.
Estimated Design / Construction / Electrical / Labor Costs:	\$ 2,500
Upfront Software Costs:	\$ 5,500
Equipment Costs:	\$ 9,500
Estimated Total Costs:	\$ 17,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sum of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Design/Construction/Electrical/Labor Costs</i> ○ <i>Upfront Software Costs</i> ○ <i>Equipment Costs</i>
Maximum Grant Funding	50%
Requested Grant Funding for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure:	\$ 8,750 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Cannot exceed estimated total costs * maximum grant funding</i> - <i>Cannot exceed \$25,000 total</i>

Certification

I certify that I have reviewed the application and the award recipient requirements in preparation for applying for this grant.

I understand and certify that should this project be awarded funding, my organization will be able to meet the award recipient requirements as described at <https://www.santeecooper.com/Programs-Incentives/EmpowerAuto/Commercial/>. I also understand that if awarded, I am responsible for all up-front costs to implement the outlined project and will be reimbursed at project closeout for eligible costs ranging from 25 to 100 percent in one or more project categories up to a maximum of \$25,000 of total grant funding.

I attest that the information provided in this application is both accurate and current.

I also understand that submitting an application in no way obligates Santee Cooper to provide funding to this project and that funds are distributed at the sole discretion of Santee Cooper.

Signature:	<u>Sandy Cooper</u>	Date:	<u>6-30-2025</u>
Printed name:	<u>Sandy Cooper</u>		
Title:	<u>Executive Director</u>		
Organization:	<u>Empower Volunteer Foundation</u>		
Contact number:	<u>(843) 123-4567</u>		

If this request is being submitted by multiple parties or a party other than the project owner, please indicate below by providing the party's name, title and contact information.

The project owner must approve the submittal on their behalf through a signature, demonstrating that all the parties linked to the project have reviewed the application and support the project, along with supporting documentation (please see the **Application Checklist** below for a comprehensive list of required attachments).

Approving party (project host/owner) – if other than project applicant.

Signature:	_____	Date:	_____
Printed name:	_____		
Title:	_____		
Organization:	_____		
Contact number:	_____		

Checklist of Supplemental Documents for Applications with Physical Assets

For any project that includes the installation of infrastructure, procurement of EVs, or any other physical assets, the following documents are required.

- ☒ **Equipment Specifications.** Overview of physical assets (EV or EV charging infrastructure equipment) with description, features, and support information.
Documentation of basic equipment/component details (e.g., manufacturer, make, model, reliability, safety, capabilities, power load, features, etc.).
- ☒ **Preliminary Financial Summary.** Include a project total and itemized cost breakdown in the Excel template on the website. You should include any matching or contributing funds your organization is using to fund the project, estimated costs, etc. Please be as detailed as possible and fill out all tabs and cells related to your project category.
- ☒ **Site Control Agreement.** Required only if project involves permanently installing infrastructure or making physical changes to a site. See instructions below:

If applicant is the property owner:

- ☒ Copy of Land Ownership Documentation

If applicant is NOT the property owner at the location of the proposed project, you must submit each of the following:

- ☐ Landlord Consent Form (this must be completed by the property owner)
- ☐ Copy of Long-term Lease Agreement

If you are unable to provide any of the required documents, please explain:

Optional Documents for All Applications

The following documents are optional but may strengthen your application.

☐ **Letters of Support**

- ☒ Other support letters from key community members or leaders, etc. may be provided to support the application.

☐ **Team Credentials.** A list of project team members, roles, and qualifications, such as:

- ☐ Resumes of the project manager and other key team members.
- ☐ List of any similar projects completed.