



2025 CERTs Seed Grant Application

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Once you click "submit" you will no longer be able to edit your application.

If you have any questions about this application, feel free to contact CERTs at grants@cleanenergyresourceteams.org.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Contact Email

risi.karim@northfieldmn.gov


Name of Primary Contact Person

Risi Karim

Primary Contact Title or Relationship to Organization

Assistant to the City Administrator

Primary Contact Phone

 14056136759

Applicant Organization

City of Northfield

Organization's Street Address

801 Washington Street

Organization's City

Northfield

Organization's Zip Code

55057

Organization's Website

<https://www.northfieldmn.gov/>

Name of Alternate Contact Person

Ben Martig

Alternate Contact Title or Relationship to Organization

City Administrator

Alternate Contact Email

ben.martig@northfieldmn.gov

Alternate Contact Phone



15076453060

Has your organization ever applied for a CERTs Seed Grant?

Yes

Has your organization ever received a CERTs Seed Grant?

Yes

I certify that I have read the Application Guidelines.

Yes, I have read the full Application Guidelines.

I understand payments are made on a reimbursement basis.

Yes, I understand payments are made on a reimbursement basis.

To which CERT Region are you applying?

Southeast

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PLAN

Project Name

Northfield Community Resource Center EV Charging Station

What is your project location(s)?

Northfield Community Resource Center

Project (County/ies)

Rice

Address of Project

1651 Jefferson Pkwy, Northfield, MN 55057, USA

Project Summary and Primary Objective

The City of Northfield plans to install electric vehicle charging stations at the Northfield Community Resource Center (NCRC), a hub for nonprofits and community services that serve youth, families, seniors, and immigrant populations. The project will provide convenient charging access for residents who drive or are considering the switch to electric vehicles. Installing chargers at the NCRC will create a visible, inclusive, and accessible location that supports a broad range of community members while advancing the City's Climate Action Plan goals to reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions.

Project Goals

The goal of this project is to make electric vehicle charging easier and more accessible for Northfield residents by installing at least two stations with four ports at the Northfield Community Resource Center. By placing chargers at a central, community focused location, more people will have the opportunity to use electric vehicles, helping reduce emissions and support the city's climate goals. This project makes clean transportation practical for a wide range of residents and encourages more sustainable choices in everyday travel.

Project Activities

Activities: The project will include site preparation, electrical work, and installation of two EV charging stations with four ports at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Once installed, the chargers will be tested, activated, and made available for public use, with signage and outreach to ensure community awareness.

Outcomes: The chargers will expand access to clean transportation, provide a reliable charging option at a central community hub, and directly support Northfield's climate action goals by reducing transportation related emissions.

Measuring Success: Success will be tracked by monitoring charger usage data (sessions, hours, and number of unique users), gathering feedback from residents and organizations that use the NCRC, and assessing increased visibility and awareness of clean transportation options within the community. Long term success will be reflected in stronger adoption of EVs and progress toward the city's emission reduction goals.

Estimated Project Work Plan/Timeline

January–February 2026: Finalize site assessment and electrical requirements at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Responsible: City Project Manager & Facilities Manager

March 2026: Select contractor and procure EV charging stations. Responsible: Project Manager

April–May 2026: Prepare site, including minor electrical upgrades and construction as needed. Responsible: Facilities Manager & Contractor Team.

June 2026: Install EV charging stations (2 stations, 4 ports total). Responsible: Facilities Manager oversight.

July 2026: Conduct testing, ensure safety compliance, and train City staff on operations. Responsible: Facilities Manager & Contractor Team.

August 2026: Public launch of EV chargers with signage and community communication. Responsible: Project Manager.

September–December 2026: Monitor usage, address any operational issues, and collect initial data on station use. Responsible: Project Manager.

January 2027: Final reporting to CERTs, including usage data, lessons learned, and community feedback. Responsible: Project Manager.

Why does this project matter to your community?

Installing EV chargers at the Northfield Community Resource Center will provide residents and community organizations with convenient access to clean transportation, meeting a critical need for charging options in this part of town. The NCRC serves as a hub for nonprofits, local programs, and community services, so the chargers will benefit a wide range of users, from families and seniors to community groups. By placing chargers at this central and highly visible location, the project will raise awareness of sustainable transportation options, encourage broader adoption of electric vehicles, and support Northfield's commitment to equitable, inclusive, and practical climate action.

Serving Underserved Populations

For many residents in Northfield, the Northfield Community Resource Center is more than just a building, it's a lifeline. Families, seniors, and individuals facing economic or social barriers rely on programs and services provided by nonprofits hosted at the NCRC, including the Community Action Center, FiftyNorth, and the Healthy Community Initiative. These organizations help meet daily needs, provide critical support, and create opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. As interest in electric vehicles grows among residents and community organizations, accessible EV charging at this central location has become an important community need. Installing chargers at the NCRC will directly benefit residents who depend on these services, making clean transportation more accessible and demonstrating Northfield's commitment to equity, sustainability, and community resilience.

Project Partners

This project is rooted in community partnerships and responds directly to needs identified by organizations based at the Northfield Community Resource Center. The Community Action Center, which provides essential services to underserved residents, is planning to purchase electric vehicles for its work and has provided a letter of support for this project. Their participation demonstrates how the chargers will directly benefit nonprofits and the people they serve. By locating the stations at the NCRC, the project also ensures that community members who regularly visit the building for services and programs will see, use, and benefit from the chargers. This visibility helps normalize clean transportation and creates opportunities for ongoing conversations about sustainability within the community.

Estimated number of adults (18 years and older) involved in the project:

7

Estimated number of youth (less than 18 years old) involved:

2

PROJECT FUNDING

How will you use CERTs funds?

The City of Northfield plans to use CERTs Seed Grant funds exclusively to cover labor costs associated with the installation of EV charging stations at the Northfield Community Resource Center. All materials, parts, and equipment will be purchased with City budget dollars. This approach ensures that grant dollars are directed toward skilled installation work, while leveraging City resources to cover hardware expenses.

Estimated Breakdown of CERTs-eligible Expenses:

Labor (licensed electrical contractor, site preparation, installation, and testing)

Activity Type: Construction/Installation

Cost: \$10,000

Total funding requested from CERTs:

\$10000

Documentation from any project partner (email, letter of support), if applicable.



[City of Northfield CERT Letter of Support.docx.pdf](#)