

Community Health Investment Fund Grantees FY 2023

Total Amount Awarded in FY23: \$1,093,102

Collective Impact Grants

United Way of Northwest Vermont

Northwest Vermont Prevention Network

Amount Awarded: \$100,000, Year 1

The Northwest Vermont Prevention Network seeks to advance a comprehensive, aligned strategy for preventing substance misuse and promoting health and well-being, with particular focus on youth and young adults. After completing a regional inventory and interactive map of current resources and services, we can identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities. We propose to advance the Network's priorities for change and growth at the policies and systems level (encompassing local, state, and federal policies and laws, economic and cultural influences, and media), and to create a model for sustainable, consistent policy work to help prevent substance misuse across our region in the years to come.

United Way of Northwest Vermont

Mental Health Initiative

Amount Awarded: \$100,000, Year 3

United Way of Northwest Vermont's Mental Health Initiative is working to improve Vermonters' timely access to appropriate mental health supports and services by elevating and amplifying the voices of direct providers of mental health services and engaging the community in their role in supporting the mental health of their friends, family and neighbors. Together we will work to align existing mental health resources, identify gaps in the system of care, and create a shared agenda and action items for our next steps.

Program Grants

Boys and Girls Club of Burlington

Improving Equitable Access to Mental Health and Wellness Support

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

The Boys and Girls Club of Burlington provides services that promote mental health and emotional wellness to Club members on a daily basis, hosting small group programs as well as one-on-one mentoring initiatives. We offer equitable access to our program and have already established strong relationships with families who come from communities where individuals who struggle with mental health often face great stigma. We seek support to improve the Club's ability to identify instances where youth are struggling with mental health or emotional wellbeing and provide thoughtful, compassionate, and culturally competent support to these vulnerable children and teenagers.

Chittenden Accountable Community for Health

Housing Health Priority Team

Award: \$25,000, Year 1

The Chittenden Accountable Community for Health (CACH) is a collaborative partnership focused on improving the health of individuals and communities in Chittenden and Grant Isle Counties by addressing social determinants of health, with a particular emphasis on housing. CACH is responsible for developing and overseeing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which includes housing goals, programs, and performance measures based on the results of the Community



Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The Housing Health Priority Team will lead the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of housing-related programs over the upcoming year.

Chittenden Community Television Center for Media and Democracy

Vermont Language Justice Project

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

The Vermont Language Justice Project (VLJP) expands language justice for Vermonters with Language Access needs through partnerships, technical assistance, and regular production and distribution of essential public health information in audio/video formats translated to 16 languages, including English. As demand for VLJP's work grows beyond pandemic-related topics, and language accessibility services become a standard best practice across public health and other fields, VLJP seeks to build partnerships and collect data to better understand and meet the needs of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities, and to inform systemic language access solutions in Vermont.

Dad Guild

Fatherhood Support Network

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

Dad Guild's Fatherhood Support Network program uses a multifaceted approach for engaging father figures at a time when many struggle with increased rates of anxiety, depression, and social isolation. This peer support network provides multiple avenues for dads to connect with one another through high interest activities with minimal barriers for participation.

Janet S. Munt Family Room

Family Strengthening Workers at the Building Strong Families Clinic

Award: \$50,000, Year 2

The Family Strengthening Workers (FSW) program, at the Building Strong Families Clinic, provides culturally relevant support to immigrant families in Chittenden County. Lead by immigrant communities, FSWs act as liaisons to medical and other social service providers. They assist in following up on referrals, reminding families of their appointment date, time, and location. They help to create a welcoming space with people they feel comfortable with. They help connect families to valuable, preventative programming. The clinic provides food, clothing, winter gear, bike helmets, and other necessary concrete supports for families. As families continue to come to the Clinic, they develop more trusting relationships with the FSWs, doctor, and nurses. This allows for families to open up, be vulnerable, and feel comfortable asking for help, or bring up issues that are more sensitive.

Pathways Vermont

Chittenden County Housing First Program

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

Housing First is an evidence-based, cost-effective, permanent supportive housing model that supports individuals to maintain independent housing and lead healthy and meaningful lives in their community. This successful approach immediately ends homelessness by supporting individuals and families to locate independent apartments in the community. In addition, Housing First clients receive long-term, multidisciplinary community supports, including service coordination, drug and alcohol counseling, employment support, psychiatry, nursing care, and representative payee services.



The DREAM Program

Dream Program

Award: \$25,000, Year 2

Through inequitable and racialized systems, there is a growing socio-economic gap in resources, education and access to adult mentors for youth in low-income households. DREAM's mission is to help close the opportunity gap for youth in low-income housing.

Turning Point Center of Chittenden County (TPCCC)

Outreach and Recovery Coaching Program

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

The TPCCC Outreach Recovery Coaching Program provides low-barrier, peer recovery support to individuals and families using emergency housing services within Chittenden County. Our coaches facilitate recovery support groups at various shelters and drop-in locations while also maintaining those critical connections with the vulnerable population identified as housing at-risk. Low-barrier means that the requirements for entry are limited or minimal; coaches provide recovery coaching to individuals actively using, entering recovery, maintaining recovery, and they assist with a multitude of other needs that may present

University of Vermont and Agricultural College

New American Girls on the Rise

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

New American Girls on the Rise is a targeted mentorship and enrichment program for middle and high school girls from Chittenden County refugee and immigrant groups with the goal of fostering inclusive health care and improved health outcomes for local immigrant communities by increasing collaboration and trust between the academic health center and the local community and, ultimately, increasing representation in the healthcare workforce. Using the novel concept of “cocooning,” New American Girls on the Rise surrounds local immigrant, refugee and 1st generation American girls with home, school, and individual supports necessary to succeed in health sciences. Using a combination of mentorship and academic enrichment, the program guides the girls into (1) college careers in health sciences and then (2) into careers in health sciences to diversify the healthcare workforce. This grant application will fund the formalization of the program and the launch the first phase.

Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Wellness Working Group and Richard Kemp Center

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

The Mission of the VRJA Wellness Working Group is to establish and manage a program to ensure that African Descendants of Slavery and Black, Indigenous and other People of Color are enabled the ability to live daily enjoying their highest levels of wellness. Our work involves creating and managing disruptive initiatives and developing a long-range strategy for black-led alternative approaches, creating healthy wellness outcomes. The Mental Wellness Working Group collaborates, advises and consults with various ongoing VRJA initiatives in Burlington and statewide. The Working Group collaborates with the VRJA Data Team in the development of a data dashboard that reflects high impact, high discretion racially disaggregated data in support of this work. The Working Group will produce a comprehensive report on health (and wealth) including racially disaggregated data on land and home ownership in conjunction with an outside agency. This work will inform planning and research in the development and implementation of a strategy that will provide Black and Brown folks direct access to ownership of homes and land.



Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform

Re-entry and Recovery with Contingency Management

Award: \$50,000, Year 1

In August 2022, Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (VCJR) opened Vermont's first specialized reentry and recovery center for justice-involved people living with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders in downtown Burlington. In late September 2022, VCJR began implementing a new drug treatment/overdose prevention program at our center using an evidence-based behavioral intervention called contingency management (An Emerging Need grant provided by CHIC paid for contingency management incentives, drug testing and fentanyl test strips for 75 participants). Our goal is to expand our contingency management program capacity to enroll an additional 25 participants and provide support for program staffing to implement the contingency management program and other important reentry and recovery center offerings.

Emerging Need Grants

ANew Place

Bridge Funding

Award: \$34,400

We are looking for funding to bridge the gap in the salary of our Community Supportive Services (CSS) Director (formerly known as the Transitional housing director). The CSS Director leads our efforts to walk with individuals as they transition through the experience of homelessness and into a state of stability, sobriety, and housing. The Director casts the vision and implements the policies, procedures, and programming to effectively support our guests as they engage in this life-changing work. They oversee all programming, case management, and community collaboration to ensure the success of the participants in the ANew Leaf Program, which is part of our 4-Phase Continuum of Care. The CSS Director has been with the organization since 2017 and has helped steward the agency through many seasons of change, including the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Champlain Housing Trust

Pearl Street Sober Living Community

Award: \$101,094

The Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) seeks \$100,000 for needed renovations and upgrades to accommodate a new sober living program. CHT owns a three-story Victorian building at 204 Pearl Street in Burlington consisting of 19 single occupancy room. Residents at this property share bathrooms and a kitchen as well as a common living room. The rooms at 204 Pearl are not designated for the Coordinated Entry process and homelessness is not a requirement to obtain this housing, but most residents were homeless at the time of application. CHT is partnering with Turning Point of Chittenden County to provide programmatic support including: onsite recovery support groups, recovery coaching services which includes individual support sessions, resource navigation, recovery goals planning, treatment access and assistance, and introduction to recovery community within the recovery center at 179 South Winooski Avenue. There is a great need for recovery housing in Chittenden County and this building will operate better with community connection between residents.

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Strategic Planning for the Alliance

Award: \$17,000

The CCHA seeks funding from the CHIC to support development of a five-year strategic plan. A highly-skilled consultant has been identified through a competitive request for proposal process. The consultant has vast knowledge of the CCHA, its partner agencies, and our local community.



Sustainability Academy, Burlington School District Mentorship Program

Award: \$13,000

BIPOC mentors will come to Sustainability Academy once a week to work as a one-on-one mentor with students of color. Mentorship will not be focused solely on academics, but also on socioemotional and creative activities. Mentorship will happen after school, on the Sustainability Academy campus from 3-4:30 pm. Mentors will be compensated for their labor. A mentor coordinator will work to develop the curriculum and structure of programming. Ideally we will pilot this project during the Fall 2023 semester, and fully launch it by Winter 2024.

Vermont Recovery Network Recovery Partners of Vermont

Award: \$27,608

This request will provide the technology needed to support outreach to fully and mostly homebound senior Vermonters seeking recovery or in recovery from Substance Use Disorder and/or Alcohol Use Disorder. It will fund the technology needed to create rooms able to host hybrid recovery meetings, so that fully and mostly homebound seniors can dial in and participate in our already established recovery meetings. It will also provide technology for guests to use when they come into the member organizations. Mostly homebound seniors may be limited in the number of rides they are able to attain from free Senior Ride programs, or they may be limited in what destinations they can go to. We seek to reduce their marginalization by providing free access to technology in the form of laptops, printers, and scanners, allowing them to complete other needed tasks and/or maintain contact with loved ones while they are attending the member organization for recovery work.

Annual Awards

Community Health Centers (CHC) Health Access Sliding-Fee Scale and Patient Support

Award: \$100,000

Grant funds are used to support the Patient Assistance Program, which offers a full array of support services available to all CHC patients and community residents in need of access to care and financial assistance programs.

United Way of Northwest Vermont Strategic Investments in Health Improvement

Award: \$100,000

Funds are used to support investment in a diverse portfolio of strategies to support the health and wellbeing of our community. These include: a foundation of strong programs; nonprofit and cross sector collaboration; community-wide volunteer mobilization; and strategic initiatives to create systems-level change.

