

UVM Medical Center Community Health Investment FY25



Local Health Priority Areas of Investment




Populations of Focus for Investment

Population of Focus	Total Investment	% of Total
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color	\$498,278	45.34%
Non-binary, Genderqueer, Fluid, Transgender	\$43,623	3.97%
People with language access needs	\$258,693	23.54%
People with disabilities	\$225,000	20.47%
LGBTQIA2S+	\$193,623	17.62%
Older adults (age 65+)	\$187,000	17.02%
Refugees and newly immigrated individuals	\$383,693	34.91%
People experiencing poverty or lower socio-economic status	\$931,453	84.76%
Youth	\$352,787	32.10%

Healthy People 2030 Areas of Investment



**Economic
Stability**



**Education Access
and Quality**



**Healthcare Access
and Quality**



**Neighborhood and
Built Environment**



**Social and
Community Context**

About the Community Health Investment Fund

The Fund offers primarily multi-year (3 year) awards. In order to align with the triannual community health needs assessment, fiscal year 2025 awards marked the end of multi-year cycles for funded partners. A new 3-year cycle will begin in fiscal year 2026 informed by the 2025 assessment.

To learn more, visit www.uvmhealth.org/CHI-UVMHC or contact Justin.Graham@uvmhealth.org

ANEW Place

\$2,265

Stove Hood Vent and Asbestos Testing

In October 2024, ANEW Place upgraded the alarm system at its North Street Shelter to enhance safety for guests and staff. However, the increased sensitivity of the system has led to frequent false alarms triggered by routine cooking, causing repeated evacuations and unnecessary dispatches from the Burlington Fire Department. To resolve this, ANEW Place plans to install a stove hood vent to properly ventilate smoke and prevent future disruptions. This upgrade will improve shelter operations, reduce strain on emergency services, and ensure a safer, more stable environment for residents. The project reflects ANEW Place's commitment to responsive, community-centered solutions in its homelessness services.

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Boys and Girls Club of Burlington

\$50,000

Improving Equitable Access to Mental Health and Wellness Support

The Boys and Girls Club of Burlington serves youth from historically underserved communities, with most members coming from BIPOC households and families living in poverty. This initiative aims to provide enhanced mental health and emotional wellness support through safe, structured out-of-school programming, staff training, and targeted interventions. Staff will receive training to better identify and respond to youth mental health needs, while youth with acute needs will benefit from evidence-based small group programming and one-on-one mentoring. By offering equitable access to compassionate care and culturally responsive support, the Club helps youth build resilience, connection, and emotional well-being. This work is essential to ensuring that all children, regardless of background, have the opportunity to thrive.

Cathedral Square

\$12,000

Housing Incentive Program (Homelessness Prevention Pilot)

The Housing Incentive Program (HIP), launched by Cathedral Square, is a proactive homelessness prevention initiative designed to support formerly homeless residents in maintaining stable housing. HIP integrates flexible, resident-driven supports—including wellness services, community-building programs, financial incentives, and emergency funds—into Cathedral Square’s existing housing model. A Resident Advisory Group ensures lived experience informs program design and improvement. Early outcomes show promise, with several evictions avoided through personalized coaching and goal-setting. HIP aims to strengthen housing stability while improving broader outcomes such as income, health, relationships, and community engagement.

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)

\$50,000

Food as Medicine at Feeding Chittenden

This project addresses the link between food insecurity and chronic health conditions by expanding access to affordable, nutritious food for Vermonters with limited incomes and health-related concerns. Through partnerships with local grocers, food producers, restaurants, co-ops, and the healthcare sector, the initiative will strengthen the emergency and supplemental food system. Multi-lingual online ordering and home delivery services will reduce transportation and cultural barriers while minimizing stigma associated with traditional food assistance. Over three years, the project will train care providers, expand local food partnerships, and evaluate the impact of increased access to fresh, locally produced foods. Funding will support systems-level change to improve health equity and food security across Vermont.

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

\$100,000

Strategic Planning; Alliance Support

Since Fall 2022, the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) has been working to renew its five-year strategic plan through a collaborative process involving over 100 stakeholders, including individuals with lived experience of homelessness. As the local Continuum of Care (CoC), CCHA brings together more than 30 organizations committed to ending homelessness in the region. Planning Grant funds have supported increased capacity and the development of a cohesive implementation strategy focused on long-term sustainability. Early disbursement of Year One funds helped stabilize operations and position CCHA to advance key goals outlined in the new strategic plan. This work lays the foundation for a more coordinated, equitable, and effective response to homelessness in Chittenden County.

Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS)

\$10,000

Life and Safety Support at Shelters

COTS is receiving ownership of the former federal building at 58 Pearl Street, where it will operate a 30-bed winter warming shelter from January to May 2025. This will be followed up with a 56-bed congregate Waystation adult shelter currently under renovation. To enhance safety across all shelter sites, COTS will install AED and Stop the Bleed devices and provide staff training at the Warming Station, Waystation, Family Shelters, and Daystation. This one-time investment equips staff with critical tools to respond to medical emergencies and supports guests who often face chronic health challenges and limited access to care. The project aims to foster a stronger sense of safety, preparedness, and dignity for both staff and shelter residents.

Community Health Centers

\$100,000

Health Access Sliding-Fee Scale and Patient Support Program

Community Health Centers (CHC) offers a Sliding-Fee Scale Financial Assistance program across its nine locations, serving over 35,000 patients annually. This model ensures equitable access to care by adjusting costs based on income, helping to address systemic barriers to healthcare. In the past year, CHC subsidized over \$640,000 in services, reinforcing its commitment to affordability and health equity. The program spans all service areas, including medical, dental, and behavioral health. By reducing financial burdens, CHC empowers individuals and families to prioritize their health and well-being.

Conscious Homestead

\$50,000

Healing and Nourishing through Community Connection with the Land

Conscious Homestead serves over 150 Black and Brown Vermonters, primarily in Winooski and surrounding towns, offering culturally rooted healing from systemic racism through afro-indigenous wisdom and community care. In 2024, the organization hosted 50+ wellness workshops, distributed 100 free herbal care packages, and supported the economic viability of 30+ BIPOC Vermonters through \$315,000 in direct support. In 2025, Conscious Homestead will continue its core programs—including the Community Care Share, Herbal Care Packages, and Flying Fish Garden Collective—while implementing climate-resilient garden redesigns, mutual aid projects, and wellness offerings like yoga and reiki. With the formation of its first Board of Directors and plans to apply for 501(c)(3) status, the organization is diversifying funding to ensure long-term sustainability. These efforts deepen its mission to build collective healing, empowerment, and justice for BIPOC communities in Vermont.

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)

\$47,372

Hotel Pool for Housing Unsheltered Families

In partnership with the City of Burlington and Champlain Housing Trust (CHT), CVOEO is launching a Hotel Pool program to prioritize shelter for families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. With only 15 family shelter beds available countywide, this initiative addresses a critical gap by offering up to seven hotel rooms at Harbor Place from December 1 to March 31, aligned with the State's Adverse Weather Conditions order. Funding will provide flexibility to support families before and after the official shelter period. The City will identify families in need, while CVOEO and CHT will offer services and connect families to additional supports. This collaborative effort ensures safer, more stable housing options for vulnerable families during Vermont's harsh winter months.

Dad Guild

\$50,000

Fatherhood Support Network

Dad Guild's Fatherhood Peer Support Network addresses the growing mental health crisis among men—especially fathers—by creating accessible, community-based support systems. With men facing higher rates of suicide, fewer friendships, and lower engagement in mental health services, the program offers over 300 dads annually opportunities for connection, healthy activities, and peer support. Research shows that two-thirds of fathers experience increased anxiety and depression in the five years following the birth of a child, yet most remain disconnected from parenting resources. Dad Guild's multifaceted approach promotes healthy masculinity, boosts parenting confidence, and strengthens family well-being. By meeting dads where they are, the program helps build supportive villages that foster resilience and positive outcomes for entire families.

DISMAS of Vermont

\$50,000

Housing and Support for the Formerly Incarcerated

Founded in 1986, Dismas of Vermont provides supportive transitional housing for formerly incarcerated individuals, helping reduce recidivism through its proven Housing First model. Operating five family-style homes, including two in Chittenden County, Dismas offers up to two years of housing, food, recovery support, and pathways to improved health, employment, and community reintegration. The program is sustained by 17 staff and nearly 7,000 volunteer hours annually. With incarceration costing Vermont over \$134,000 per person each year, Dismas offers a humane, cost-effective alternative at just over \$21,000 per person. This initiative promotes equity, stability, and second chances for individuals reentering the community.

HomeShare Vermont

\$25,000

Sustain and Gain Program

HomeShare Vermont connects individuals seeking affordable housing with Vermonters who have room in their homes, using a person-centered matching process to promote stability and mutual support. The program continues to exceed its goals in Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, helping people remain in their homes while expanding efforts to better serve BIPOC and LGBTQ communities. Guided by recommendations from CQ Strategies, HomeShare Vermont has updated its outreach and marketing strategies and is building partnerships in solidarity spaces to increase engagement from underrepresented groups. The next phase of work will focus on refining the application and intake process to ensure equitable access. These efforts aim to make homesharing more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all Vermonters.

Pathways

\$50,000

Housing First Program

The Housing First Program is an evidence-based model that provides permanent supportive housing to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, helping them maintain independent housing and lead healthy, meaningful lives. By securing community-based apartments and offering long-term, multidisciplinary support—including service coordination, counseling, nursing care, and employment assistance—the program immediately ends homelessness and reduces chronic institutionalization. Housing Coordinators work closely with landlords and clients to ensure housing stability and skill development. A key focus is helping individuals create sustainable plans for success, connecting them with resources to achieve self-defined goals. Proven to be the most effective approach to ending homelessness, Housing First promotes dignity, stability, and long-term well-being.

Pride Center of Vermont

\$11,123

Health and Wellness Programs, HIV Testing

Pride Center of Vermont's Health & Wellness program delivers HIV Testing, Prevention & Education through evidence-based strategies and community-centered outreach. The project offers free, confidential HIV testing in Burlington and at statewide events, prioritizing services for MSM, transgender, and nonbinary individuals. For those who test positive, immediate support and care navigation are provided; for those who test negative, resources such as PrEP referrals, STI testing, and harm reduction tools are offered. The program also distributes HIV self-test kits and safer sex supplies, and engages in peer-led outreach and digital engagement to reach rural and underserved communities. This initiative aims to reduce new infections, support those living with HIV, and promote health equity across Vermont.

Pride Center of Vermont

\$7,500

2STLGBQIA+ Health Conference

The 2STLGBQIA+ Health Conference, organized by Out in the Open, Outright Vermont, and Pride Center of Vermont, creates a collaborative space to explore inclusive, people-centered care models. With healthcare provider-specific content, community learning spaces, and lived-experience storytelling, the conference fosters connection and shared learning across identities. A key goal is to increase capacity for culturally-affirming medical and mental health care for underserved communities, especially 2STLGBQIA+ individuals with intersecting identities. In its inaugural year, the event welcomed 300 participants and centered community needs alongside care worker education. Amid rising discrimination, this conference offers a vital platform for advocacy, healing, and transformation in health equity.

Spectrum Youth and Family Services

\$50,000

Warming Shelter for Youth

In response to the growing need for low-barrier emergency shelter for young adults experiencing homelessness in Burlington, Spectrum transitioned its seasonal Youth Warming Shelter into a year-round nightly shelter in May 2024. Located downtown near Spectrum's Drop-In Center, the shelter operates nightly with a 10-bed capacity and offers basic necessities such as snacks, toiletries, and bedding. Open to youth ages 18–24, the program serves individuals facing significant challenges, including those exiting foster care, identifying as LGBTQ+, and experiencing trauma, mental health issues, or educational barriers. Intake assessments help tailor support to each youth's needs, with many identifying mental health, social connection, and substance use concerns. The shelter provides a safe, supportive environment and connects youth to daytime services that promote stability and well-being.

The Family Room

\$13,278

Health and Dental Clinics

The Family Room will host multiple health and dental clinics at the ONE Community Center, expanding access to essential care for families. In addition to clinical services, the project will provide concrete supports and case management to help families navigate health-related challenges. Specialized professional development in medical language interpretation will also be offered to improve communication and cultural responsiveness in healthcare settings. Together, these efforts aim to strengthen family well-being and promote health equity in the community.

University of Vermont and Agricultural College

\$50,000

New American Youth on the Rise

New American Youth on the Rise (NAYR) is a pathway program supporting middle and high school girls from immigrant communities in Chittenden County, Vermont as they prepare for college and careers in the health sciences. The program promotes health equity by increasing representation of BIPOC youth in the healthcare workforce and building trust between academic institutions and local communities. Using a three-pronged approach that engages students, families, and educators, NAYR provides academic and emotional support, mentoring, skill-building, and exposure to research and science. Students are “cocooned” in a nurturing environment that fosters confidence, connection, and readiness for higher education. NAYR is a community-rooted initiative that empowers youth to become future leaders in health and wellness.

Turning Point Center of Chittenden County

\$50,000

Outreach Recovery Coaching Program

TPCCC’s low-barrier Outreach Coaching Program provides vital substance use disorder (SUD) recovery support across Vermont’s emergency, temporary, and low-income housing systems. Operating in over 13 residential locations, outreach coaches offer All-Recovery groups, peer support interactions, and individualized recovery coaching—delivering approximately 60 hours of services weekly. The program meets individuals where they are, including those actively using substances, and helps them build skills for housing stability and personal wellness. By addressing both housing and substance use—two of Vermont’s top public health priorities—TPCCC introduces innovative, person-centered solutions that foster long-term recovery and community resilience. This work is essential to reducing barriers and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations statewide.

United Way of Northwest Vermont

\$100,000

Advancing & Aligning Prevention: Reducing Substance Misuse Among Youth & Youth Adults

The Northwest Vermont Prevention Network, established in 2021 and expanded to Central Vermont in 2023, brings together providers, youth, funders, and community leaders to advance a unified, regional approach to substance misuse prevention. Grounded in the Vermont Prevention Model, the Network promotes strategies across individual, relational, organizational, community, and policy levels to support health and well-being. Through shared learning, investment, and action, the Network works to delay substance use initiation, prevent misuse, and promote lifelong wellness. Funding from the Community Health Investment Fund supports policy and systems-level change, reinforcing the Network’s commitment to sustainable, community-driven prevention. This collective impact model strengthens regional coordination and builds resilience across Vermont communities.

United Way of Northwest Vermont (Fiscal Sponsor)

\$10,000

The Unheard Stories Project

Unheard Stories is a youth-led, out-of-school program that supports the health and wellness of Black and Brown immigrant students in Vermont through culturally responsive, community-based healing practices. Rooted in the framework of Healing Justice, the program offers weekly gatherings with adult mentors, where students share narratives of identity and lived experience, culminating in a public performance. It provides trauma-informed spaces for storytelling, creative expression, and mutual support, outside of traditional mental health systems that often exclude immigrant communities of color. Mentors reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the students, fostering trust and representation. By linking personal healing with systems change, Unheard Stories empowers youth to shape their own well-being and advocate for justice in the broader Winooski community.

United Ways of Vermont (Fiscal Sponsor)

\$50,000

Vermont Language Justice Project

The Vermont Language Justice Project (VLJP) collaborates with trusted community members from refugee, asylee, and immigrant communities to produce and distribute informational videos in 21 languages—recently adding Portuguese and Jamaican Patois. Originally created during the COVID-19 pandemic to share life-saving health information, VLJP now addresses a wide range of topics including vaccinations, mental health, legal rights, and everyday safety. Content is shaped by direct community input and a biweekly task force of health providers, educators, and state partners focused on language justice. VLJP is the only known organization nationwide producing translated video content in this many languages, ensuring equitable access to critical information for Vermonters with language access needs. This work empowers communities to make informed decisions and live healthier, safer lives.

UVM Foundation—Migrant Health Program

\$35,415

Healthcare Navigation for Newly Arrived Immigrant Workers and Families

UVM Extension's Migrant Health Programs (MHP) seeks to expand its health insurance access and education efforts. This project will extend a key position for four months to deliver hands-on, culturally relevant education on health insurance eligibility, enrollment, and navigation of Vermont Health Connect. MHP will also develop self-paced modules covering topics such as primary vs. emergency care, transportation access, and financial assistance. By empowering immigrant families to manage their health and insurance needs independently, the program aims to reduce reliance on service organizations and promote long-term, sustainable healthcare access. This initiative supports health equity and strengthens community resilience across Chittenden County and beyond.

UVM Medical Center—CHI

\$25,000

Chittenden Accountable Community for Health (CACH) - Housing Health Priority Team

The Chittenden ACH Housing Team has used its \$25,000 program grant to address urgent needs among individuals experiencing homelessness in Chittenden County, with \$20,000 sub-granted to the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) for direct client services. These unrestricted funds support essential items such as transportation, food, clothing, identification, and survival gear—critical for accessing shelter, employment, and health services. An additional \$500 supported a tailored training by the Vermont Asylum Assistance Project (VAAP) for over 50 providers, improving service delivery for immigrant communities. These strategic investments enhance service accessibility, promote stability, and build provider capacity to serve diverse populations. The ACH Housing Team continues to prioritize flexible, community-informed solutions to reduce homelessness and improve health equity.

Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

\$50,000

Wellness Working Group and Richard Kemp Center

The Vermont Racial Justice Alliance (VRJA) engages in research, outreach, education, and cultural empowerment to dismantle systemic racism and promote equity across Vermont. Through its Wellness Working Group (WWG), VRJA develops innovative, Black-led strategies to support the wellness of African Descendants of Slavery and other BIPOC communities. This work led to the creation of the Richard Kemp Center (RKC), a hub for youth support, economic advancement, and cultural empowerment rooted in racial and social equity. VRJA's efforts center the needs of Black Vermonters by expanding access to programs and services in underserved communities and building new systems of empowerment. The initiative honors legacy, fosters healing, and creates pathways toward health, prosperity, and justice.

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (VCJR)

\$50,000

Reentry & Recovery Center with Contingency Management

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (VCJR) operates Vermont's first specialized reentry and recovery center for justice-involved individuals living with substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders—one of the most vulnerable and stigmatized populations. Located in downtown Burlington, the center offers low-barrier services including professional case management, peer support, and an innovative contingency management drug treatment program. VCJR also provides an incarceration diversion program and collaborates with the Johnson Health Center to offer co-located medical care. These integrated supports are especially critical during the high-risk period following release from incarceration. By helping justice-involved individuals succeed, VCJR promotes public health, safety, and community well-being.