

2025

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Project &
Operating Awards

2025 GRANT DISBURSEMENT

Economic Opportunity

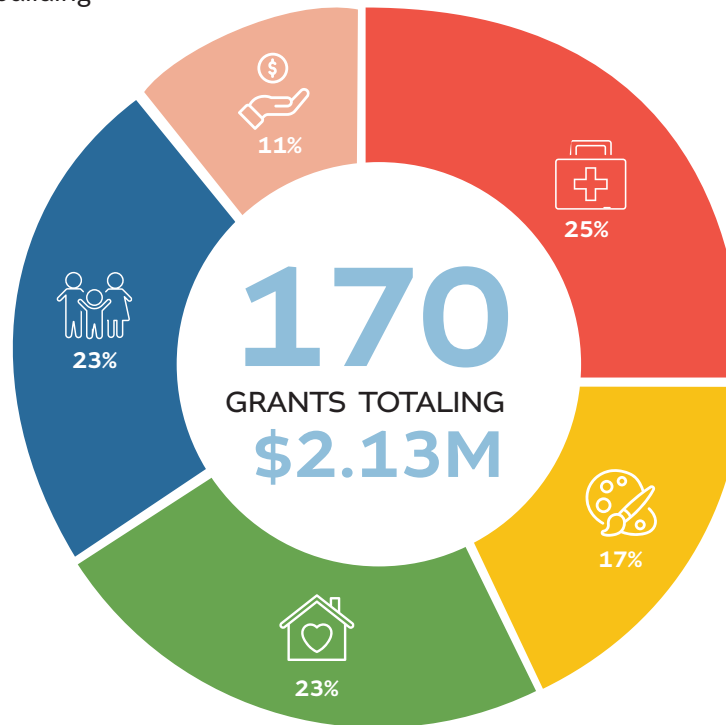
We invested **\$240,500** to support **nine** projects and **10** organizations to advance Worcester County residents' upward economic mobility, including workforce development, career training, and skill-building opportunities. [pages 7-8](#)

Health & Wellbeing

We're proud to invest **\$542,000** to support **19** projects and **20** organizations that foster greater health and wellbeing for Worcester County residents by expanding access to physical and mental health care and support services. [pages 8-9](#)

Youth Development

We invested **\$501,500** in Worcester County to support youth development through **24** projects and **18** organizations focused on youth development and empowerment, educational enrichment, and support for immigrant families. [pages 10-11](#)



Arts & Creativity

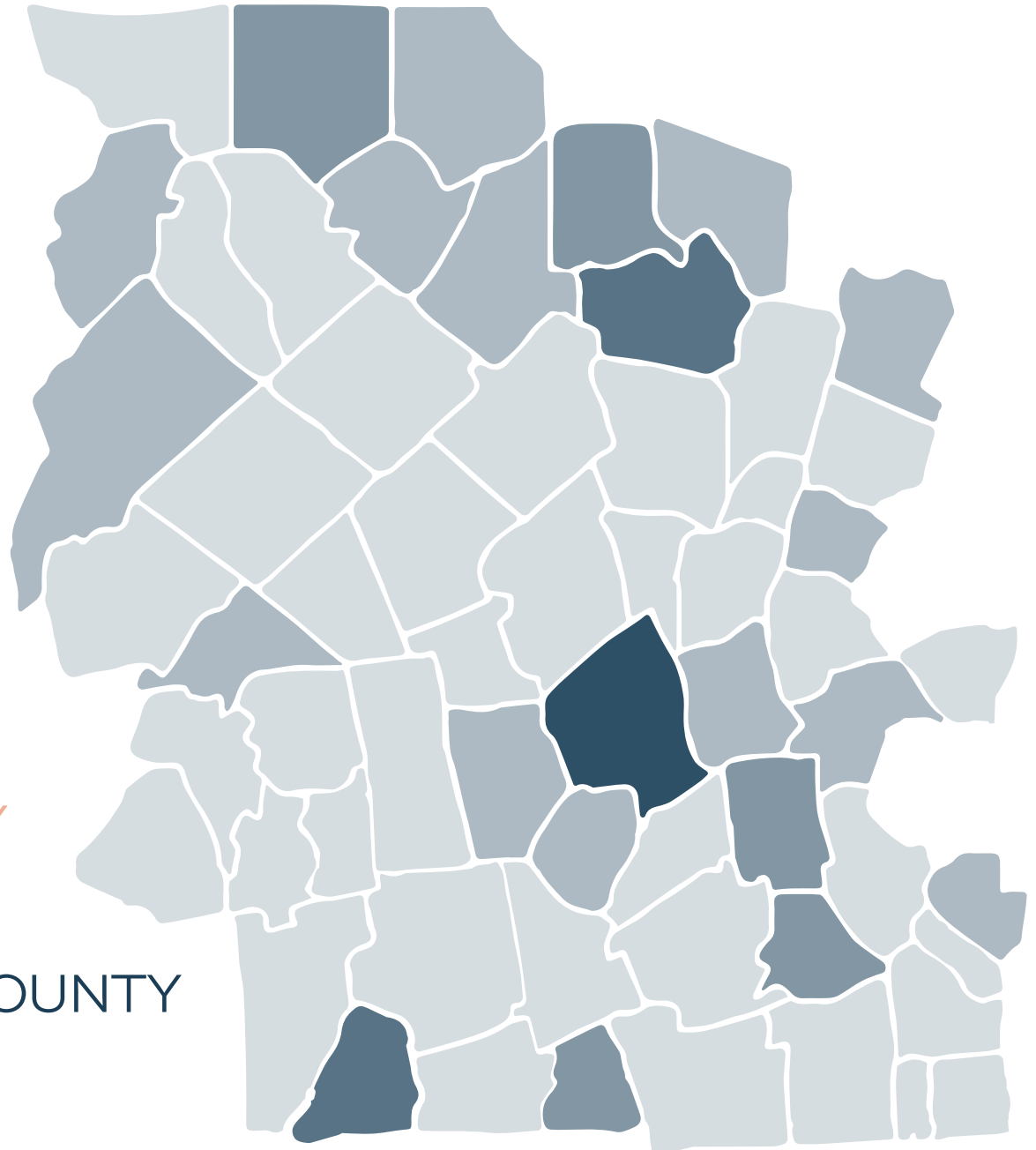
We continued to support arts and creativity in Worcester County, making **\$355,000** in grants to **12** projects and **24** organizations that will engage artists and the broader community in creative programs, workshops, and events. [pages 4-5](#)

Basic Needs

To support residents' most basic needs like food and shelter, we made **\$496,000** in grants to **13** projects and **21** organizations to support housing assistance, food security, emergency supports, and essential resources. [pages 5-7](#)

77
project grants

93
general operating grants



2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Arts & Creativity

19 Carter | \$5,000
Operating Support

Apple Tree Arts | \$5,000
Operating Support

ArtsWorcester | \$18,000
Operating Support

Black Excellence Academy | \$10,000
Operating Support

Casita Cultura Latina | \$8,000
Operating Support

Crocodile River Music | \$10,000
MailFest 2025

Crocodile River Music | \$7,500
Operating Support

Harvard's Cultural Collaborative, Inc. | \$5,000
Operating Support

Inner Voice Outer Change | \$15,000
Therapeutic After School Music Program

Joy of Music Program, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

Love Your Labels | \$12,000
Operating Support

Love Your Labels | \$15,000
Threads Youth Fashion & Identity Program

Mass Humanities | \$15,000
Worcester Clemente Course

Music Worcester, Inc. | \$15,000
Operating Support

New Dawn Arts Center, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill | \$12,000
Project Bloom

Open Door Arts | \$15,000
Gallery at Worcester Art Museum

OpporTUNEity Community Connections | \$7,500
OpporTUNEity Songwriters Circle

Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester | \$12,000
Operating Support

Preservation Worcester | \$5,000
Operating Support

Pride Productions, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

Refugees & Immigrants Cultural Empowerment Massachusetts | \$10,000
Operating Support

Ritmos Dance Company, Inc. | \$7,500
Operating Support

Open Door Arts: Gallery at Worcester Art Museum

The Open Door Gallery at Worcester Art Museum is a disabled-led and accessible space that showcases the work and stories of disabled artists.



2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Worcester Chamber Music Society: Neighborhood Strings

The Neighborhood Strings program offers free music lessons in violin, viola, and cello to youth from Worcester's Downtown and Main South neighborhoods.



Studio Theatre Worcester | \$6,000
Operating Support

WICN Public Radio, Inc. | \$12,500
Operating Support

Worcester Center for Crafts | \$5,000
Forge Like A Viking

Worcester Center for Crafts | \$10,000
Operating Support

Worcester Center for Performing Arts (Hanover Theatre) | \$12,500
Operating Support

Worcester Chamber Music Society | \$7,500
Neighborhood Strings

Worcester Chamber Music Society | \$8,000
Operating Support

Worcester Children's Chorus | \$5,000
Operating Support

Worcester County Light Opera Club | \$5,000
Operating Support

Worcester County Poetry Association | \$10,000
Operating Support

Worcester Historical Museum | \$14,000
Operating Support

Worcester Youth Orchestras | \$10,000
Expanding Community Access to the Arts

Youth Opportunities Upheld | \$10,000
ASPiRE! Creative Arts Initiatives

Basic Needs

Abby's House | \$22,000
Operating Support

Advocacy for Refugee & Immigrant Services, Inc. | \$5,000
Operating Support

Ansaar of Worcester | \$12,500
Housing Assistance & Home Buying Education

Ascentria Community Services, Inc. | \$25,000
Immigration and Legal Assistance Program

Auburn Youth and Family Services | \$7,500
Operating Support

Catholic Charities Worcester County | \$20,000
Emergency Stabilization Services

Community Harvest Project | \$17,000
Operating Support

Community Servings | \$12,000
Food is Medicine

Deja New Leicester, Inc. | \$7,500
Operating Support

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Hope and Comfort, Inc.: Hygiene Product Delivery in Worcester County

Hope and Comfort's first grant from GWCF will help them distribute at least 450,000 essential hygiene products to an estimated 45,000 residents in Worcester County.



Dignity Matters, Inc. | \$15,000
Menstruation Product Delivery in Worcester County

Dismas House of Central Massachusetts, Inc. | \$20,000
Operating Support

El Buen Samaritano Food Program | \$15,000
Operating Support

Fresh Start Furniture Bank | \$15,000
Operating Support

Friends of St. Luke's, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

Growing Places Garden Project | \$15,000
Operating Support

Hope and Comfort, Inc. | \$7,500
Hygiene Product Delivery in Worcester County

Jeremiah's Inn | \$15,000
Operating Support

Legendary Legacies, Inc. | \$15,000
Legacy Transport

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange | \$10,000
Paths to Permanency and Adoption

Meryl's Safe Haven | \$12,500
Operating Support

Mustard Seed Catholic Workers Community | \$10,000
Operating Support

NewVue Communities | \$15,000
Tenant Housing Stability

North Star Family Services, Inc. | \$10,000
Bonnie's Place

North Star Family Services, Inc. | \$17,000
Operating Support

Open Sky Community Services | \$25,000
South County Housing Assistance Program

Quinsigamond Community College Foundation | \$10,000
Emergency Assistance for At-Risk Students

Rachel's Table | \$7,500
Operating Support

Regional Environmental Council, Inc. | \$20,000
Operating Support

Safe Exit Initiative | \$18,000
Operating Support

Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts | \$25,000
Food Security

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice, Inc. | \$15,000
Expanding Access to Immigrant Justice in Worcester

Worcester Anti-Foreclosure Team | \$5,000
Operating Support

Worcester Common Ground | \$22,500
Operating Support

Worcester Community Housing Resources | \$17,500
Operating Support

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts: Food Security

SEACMA's Food Security program provides culturally and dietary relevant hot meals and produce/protein deliveries to Asian immigrants and refugees in Worcester.



Economic Opportunity

Adult & Teen Challenge MA Worcester | \$10,000
Carpenter's Shop Workforce Training

African Community Education Program | \$25,000
Family Outreach Services

Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg, Leominster, & Gardner | \$10,000
Operating Support

Dress for Success Worcester, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

Latin American Health Alliance | \$5,000
Operating Support

Legendary Legacies, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester | \$15,000
ESOL and Workforce Readiness

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester | \$20,000
Operating Support

Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts | \$7,500
Operating Support

Main South Community Development Corporation | \$20,000
Operating Support

NewVue Communities | \$20,000
Operating Support

One Family, Inc. | \$7,500
College Mentorship Program for Single Parent Students

Proactive Families Advocacy, Inc. | \$5,000
Family interconnection Peer Program

Senior Connection | \$10,000
Wealth Rising

Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts | \$22,500
Operating Support

Spanish American Center, Inc. | \$12,000
ESL Program

Training Resources of America, Inc. | \$12,000
ESOL Program



African Community Education Program: Family Outreach Services

ACE's Family Outreach Services provides sustained wraparound services to help refugee and immigrant families achieve stability and work towards self-sufficiency.

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Worcester Refugee Assistance Project | \$5,000
Operating Support

Worcester State Foundation | \$14,000
Latino Education Institute Club Educación

One Family, Inc.: One Family Scholars Program

The One Family Scholars Program provides individualized academic and career coaching to single parent students in Worcester County.



Health & Wellbeing

Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated | \$10,000
Adult Recovery & Wellness Art Workshops

AIDS Project Worcester | \$10,000
Operating Support

Center for Health Impact | \$15,000
Elevating Our Voice: Training for Family Caregivers

Center for Health Impact | \$7,500
Operating Support

Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester | \$20,000
Elevating Our Voice: Training for Family Caregivers

Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) | \$15,000
Healthy Habits Initiatives

Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) | \$12,000
Operating Support

DetecTogether, Inc. | \$20,000
A Community Approach to Early Detection Pilot

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center | \$15,000
Worcester Harm Reduction Project

Family Health Center of Worcester | \$20,000
Perinatal Group Programs

Genesis Club House, Inc. | \$22,500
Operating Support

Genesis Club House, Inc. | \$10,000
Project Connect: Connecting with Worcester's Unhoused

High Ridge Harmony Farm | \$10,000
Nature-Based Sanctuary for Youth Healing and Belonging

Lucy's Love Bus | \$10,000
Enhanced Support for Spanish Speaking Families

MAB Community Services | \$10,000
Vision Rehabilitation for Older Adults

North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy, Inc. | \$7,500
Operating Support

Notre Dame Health Care | \$10,000
Adult Palliative Care

Open Sky Community Services | \$15,000
Safe Homes

Pathways for Change | \$18,000
Medical Accompaniment

Pathways for Change | \$12,500
Operating Support

Pernet Family Health Service, Inc. | \$25,000
The 4th Trimester

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Edward M. Kennedy Community Center: Worcester Harm Reduction Project

This grant will help fund the Center's harm reduction efforts, purchasing a vending machine to be on site with free harm reduction supplies to assist people on their recovery journey.



EDWARD M.
KENNEDY
COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Plesant Street Neighborhood Network Center | \$17,000
Operating Support

Project New Hope | \$12,000
Operating Support

RIA, Inc. | \$7,500
Sisters Leading Sisters

Second Chance Animal Services, Inc. | \$7,500
Project Keep Me

Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. | \$15,000
Operating Support

Spanish American Center, Inc. | \$15,000
Operating Support

The CASA Project | \$20,000
Operating Support

The HeartWell Institute | \$7,500
Operating Support

The Shine Initiative | \$20,000
Operating Support

The WellStorm, Inc. | \$5,000
Operating Support

Together for Kids Coalition | \$25,000
Welcome Baby!

Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry | \$18,000
Operating Support

Westborough Connects, Inc. | \$10,000
Operating Support

Winchendon Community Action Committee, Inc. | \$7,500
Operating Support

Worcester RISE Health | \$25,000
Improving Maternal Child Health Access and Navigation

Worcester RISE Health | \$12,500
Operating Support

Yes We Care, Inc. | \$7,500
Operating Support

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. | \$15,000
Gender Wellness Initiative



High Ridge Harmony Farm: Nature-Based Sanctuary for Youth Healing and Belonging

This program provides equine-assisted wellness sessions to 20 students in alternative learning programs across Worcester County public schools.

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Youth Development

508 C.H.E.E.R.S. | \$15,000

Youth Empowerment Mentorship Program

African Community Education Program (ACE) | \$20,000

Operating Support

Applewild School | \$6,000

Early Childcare Center Pancakes with Picasso

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Mass/Metrowest, Inc. | \$10,000

Operating Support

Blackstone Valley Education Foundation | \$10,000

Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy

Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley | \$10,000

Operating Support

Boys & Girls Club of Worcester | \$15,000

Operating Support

Camp Putnam, Inc. | \$5,000

Operating Support

EcoTarium | \$10,000

Teen Leadership in STEM Program

Edward Street Child Services | \$18,000

Master Teacher Consultation Program

Edward Street Child Services | \$22,500

Operating Support

Family Services of Central Massachusetts | \$15,000

Summer Literacy Initiative

Friendly House | \$18,000

HBCU College Tour

Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA | \$15,000

Community-Based Program Expansion in Southern County

Girls Incorporated of Worcester | \$20,000

Operating Support

Girls on the Run Worcester County | \$5,000

Equity in Motion: Expanding Access Across Worcester County

Horizons for Homeless Children | \$8,000

Playspace Program in Worcester County

House of Peace and Education | \$5,000

Operating Support

Meryl's Safe Haven | \$15,000

Transitional Youth Empowerment Program

Our Bright Future, Inc. | \$12,500

Operating Support

Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center | \$12,500

After School Program

President and Fellows of Harvard College | \$5,000

Science & Nature Club at Petersham Center School



Applewild School: Early Childcare Center Pancakes with Picasso

Twice a year, this placemaking gathering brings together over 140 preschoolers, families, and teachers to celebrate student artwork over pancakes and coffee.

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Edward Street Services: Master Teacher Consultation Program

This program provides coaching, professional development, and support to early education teachers and directors in Worcester County.



Reach Out and Read | \$5,000
Worcester County Rx for Success

Regional Environmental Council, Inc. | \$20,000
YouthGROW

Rise Above Foundation | \$7,500
Operating Support

Straight Ahead Ministries, Inc. | \$18,000
Worcester Youth Reentry Program

The Club: Lunenburg Teen Center | \$15,000
GROW SMART

The Torch Foundation | \$5,000
Torch Teen Training

Together for Kids Coalition | \$15,000
Operating Support

Wendell P. Clark YMCA | \$7,500
Operating Support

Whitin Community Center | \$15,000
Mental & Behavioral Health Support in Youth Programming

Whitin Community Center | \$12,000
Operating Support

Worcester Earn a Bike, Inc. | \$8,000
Operating Support

Worcester Education Collaborative | \$10,000
Operating Support

Worcester Education Collaborative | \$12,000
Woo-Labs

Worcester State Foundation | \$17,000
Operating Support

Worcester Youth Center | \$7,500
Operating Support

Worcester Youth Center | \$12,500
Teen Circle

Worcester Youth Orchestras | \$10,000
Operating Support

YMCA of Central Massachusetts | \$10,000
Achievers Program

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. | \$10,000
Dynamy John S. Laws Youth Academy

YWCA of Central Massachusetts | \$12,000
Girls CHOICE

CONTRIBUTING FUNDS

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Samuel Frank Charitable Fund
Shepherd Knapp School Fund

Spag's Supply Fund
Sumner Lee Sharfman Fund
United Bank MA Charitable Fund
Violet Senitt Fund
Warner S. and Mary F. Fletcher Discretionary Fund
Water and Land Stewardship Fund
William R. and Janet A. Carrick Discretionary Fund
Worcester Credit Bureau Fund
Wyatt R. and Erika D. Wade Fund
Youth Opportunity Fund

About Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation fosters greater giving and impact for all of Worcester County.

For 50 years, the Foundation has been working to empower individuals to become philanthropists by connecting donors to high impact nonprofits and community partners. The Foundation employs its expertise and resources to address the region's most urgent needs.

The Foundation's community grants program makes up a quarter of its annual grantmaking, which totals approximately \$10 million a year. The community grants process is competitive, and nonprofits can apply for general operating support, project support, or both. Community grants are made possible thanks to donors that have set up discretionary or field of interest funds with the Foundation.

To learn more, please visit www.greaterworcester.org

