

50TH ANNIVERSARY IMPACT GRANTS



To close out Greater Worcester Community Foundation's 50th anniversary, we're increasing our discretionary payout this year by 50%, allowing us to make sizable grants that will make an impact on current issues facing our communities.

This includes funding projects led by local nonprofits and establishing new funding opportunities at the Foundation to respond to community need.

Nonprofit Initiatives

1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

\$250,000 to **Edward Street Child Services** for the HOME³ initiative, reinvigorating triple-decker homes to create childcare opportunities and a sustainable pathway to homeownership for family childcare providers.

2 IMMIGRANT SERVICES

\$150,000 to **Community Legal Aid** and **\$150,000** to **Ascentria Immigrant Legal Assistance Program** to help retain staff to process immigrant documentation and cover associated filing fees.

3 FOOD SECURITY

\$250,000 to **United Way of North Central Massachusetts** to support the exploration and implementation of a North County Regional Food Transportation System for North County food pantries.

4 MATERNAL HEALTH

\$250,000 to **Pernet Family Health Service** for its Universal Home Visiting program, conducting home visits for newborns and their families.

Foundation Initiatives

5 ARTS & CREATIVITY

\$250,000 for a new competitive grant program at the Foundation for the 63 **public libraries in Worcester County** to offer arts programming for children and youth.

6 AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

\$200,000 for a new emergency fund at the Foundation for our **scholarship students** to cover unexpected financial expenses.

7 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

\$500,000 for a new loan fund at the Foundation for **Community Development Corporations** in Worcester County to support predevelopment costs for affordable housing projects.

1

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Several key population center neighborhoods in the City of Worcester are “childcare deserts”. Establishing home-based childcare in these areas faces many challenges, including the cost of housing and converting housing to meet state code requirements, and unwillingness from landlords to allow home-based businesses. HOME³ aims to address this by partnering with licensed childcare providers and putting them on a path to homeownership.



5

ARTS & CREATIVITY

In the many small towns across Worcester County, access to arts opportunities for children and youth are few and far between. A new grants program will create a funding pathway for public libraries across the county to introduce or bolster arts programming, creating meaningful opportunities for children and youth to engage in the arts.



2

IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Federal agencies have canceled grants and eliminated funding for organizations providing legal aid to immigrants, including resources to support salaries for client-facing attorneys and paralegals. Already short-handed, organizations are now seeing their legal workforces dramatically reduced at a time of exceptionally high need. Funding will help retain staff and meet demand.



6

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Scholarship recipients often face “last-dollar” gaps, where even a tiny shortfall in funds or unexpected financial shocks – such as car repairs, medical bills, or rent gaps - can end their educational pursuits. Having access to an emergency fund can provide a safety net that allows them to overcome these obstacles and remain on the path to graduation.



3

FOOD SECURITY

Northern Worcester County is home to 23 food pantries that receive food for distribution from the Worcester County Food Bank, and they are all currently individually responsible for picking up their food. A regional transportation system for these food pantries would meaningfully improve North County's food security system.



7

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Development of affordable housing is an expensive and complicated endeavor. Getting projects off the ground can be challenging due to limited predevelopment resources that often require significant upfront costs.

Giving CDCs the ability to access predevelopment funds will allow them to get projects up and running faster, and act quicker when unique opportunities emerge.



4

MATERNAL HEALTH

Each year, about 2,500 babies are born in Worcester, and about half of them would welcome a home visit. Making home visits universal – open to all families – reduces the stigma of targeted programs, providing preventative support to all families with newborns, improving maternal/infant health, reducing child maltreatment, and boosting child development.

