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Health Foundation grants \$900K to community health organizations

[By Mica Kanner-Mascolo](#)

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts has awarded \$890,455 through its Activation Fund grants program to eight local organizations addressing health issues throughout the community.

Receiving an unprecedented number of grant applicants in 2024, the Worcester-based Health Foundation has awarded more than \$57 million in grants to more than 230 organizations since its inception in 1999, according to a Tuesday press release from the Health Foundation.

“We are excited to partner with seven organizations receiving grants for the first time as well as one returning grantee in support of their varied projects aimed to help them move to the next level of capacity or effectiveness in improving health in the region,” Amie Shei, president and CEO of the Health Foundation, said in the release.

Organizations receiving funding include:

African Community Education in Worcester received \$125,000 to fund renovation and equip the nonprofit's Worcester facility kitchen, allowing the organization to provide more culturally appropriate meals for youth, conduct nutrition classes, and provide meal preparation space for newly arrived Haitian families.

Center of Hope Foundation, based in Southbridge, received \$125,000 to update its Southbridge day habilitation program facility's bathrooms and plumbing systems.

Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin, based in Greenfield, received \$86,900 to build an outpatient clinic in Orange offering mental health services for child victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Choices in Worcester received \$80,250 to purchase equipment, supplies, and a 15-passenger van for the nonprofit's early diversion Worcester program, an initiative working to mitigate the school-to-prison pipeline.

Gardner Community Action Committee received \$115,000 to renovate and relocate its 5,800-square-foot facility offering community services including food distribution and emergency assistance.

Growing Places in Leominster received \$109,041 to create an inventory management IT system aimed at increasing service

capacity and better supporting North Central Massachusetts's food consumers, institutional buyers, and small farmers.

Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester received \$124,254 to purchase six new dental chairs and equipment stations at the institution's dental clinic, a training facility for dental hygienist and assistant students also offering free or discounted oral health services to in-need Worcester County residents.

Worcester RISE for Health received \$125,000 to expand and equip clinical space to offer maternal and child health care services for newly arrived refugees and immigrants and integrate an electronic medical record system.

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