



BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

## VCTF GRANTS LIST 2025

The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation mission is to promote the well-being of children and families in Vermont by raising funds for community-based prevention programs that serve children aged birth to 18.

VCTF funds are granted to programs that meet the following State of Vermont outcomes:

- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential.

The programs supported by VCTF work to prevent physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, school failure and violence, and help ensure that every child in Vermont has a fair chance for success. Examples of programs include:

After-school and out-of-school programs, Preschool programs, Literacy initiatives, Music, Arts, Theater, Outdoor adventures, Parenting education, Mentoring programs, and Substance abuse prevention programs

We believe each child deserves the chance to realize his or her innate potential; to grow up in a nurturing environment with opportunities that feed the body, mind and soul; to have a meaningful connection to the community in which they live; and to be protected from harm. We know that engaged, healthy and educated children grow into self-reliant, contributing adults. Taking care of our children now ensures a stronger future for Vermont.

VCTF funds prevention programs for children and families throughout Vermont. Our focus continues to be supporting the grassroots, direct service organizations who provide primary prevention programs based on community need. From isolated rural communities to small city neighborhoods, VCTF provides seed money in every county of the state to help incubate new programs serving children and families.

The following is a list of descriptions of the programs who were awarded Vermont Children's Trust Foundation grants in fiscal year 2025.

For grant information contact the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation:  
(802) 951-8604 or [info@vtchildrenstrust.org](mailto:info@vtchildrenstrust.org)

# VCTF Grant Summary 2025

## VCTF Grant Awards

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Number of Grants</b>    | 63        |
| <b>\$ Amount of Grants</b> | \$617,339 |

## Programs by County

VCTF funds programs throughout the state based on community need. The following shows the number of programs funded in each county for 2025 . Some programs operate in more than one county.

| <b>County</b> | <b># of Grants</b> |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Addison       | 6                  |
| Bennington    | 4                  |
| Caledonia     | 6                  |
| Chittenden    | 13                 |
| Essex         | 2                  |
| Franklin      | 6                  |
| Grand Isle    | 2                  |
| Lamoille      | 3                  |
| Orange        | 11                 |
| Orleans       | 6                  |
| Rutland       | 7                  |
| Washington    | 12                 |
| Windham       | 8                  |
| Windsor       | 13                 |
| Statewide     | 8                  |

## Programs by Targeted Outcomes

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -  | 40 |
| Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported - | 21 |

## VCTF Grant Award List 2025

| <u>Grantee</u>  | <u>Award</u> | <u>Locations</u>   | <u>Outcome</u> | <u>Est.<br/># Served</u> |
|---|--------------|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| Barra School  | \$2,000      | Caledonia, Orange,<br>Washington, Windsor  | A              | 60                       |
| Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center                                      | \$15,000     | Windham  | B              | 155                      |
| Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro  | \$15,000     | Windham  | A              | 269                      |
| Bradford Teen Center  | \$9,100      | Orange   | B              | 310                      |
| Cabot School  | \$1,736      | Washington   | A              | 15                       |
| Chandler Center for the Arts  | \$11,175     | Addison, Orange,<br>Rutland, Washington,<br>Windsor                                    | A              | 132                      |
| Child Care Resource   | \$12,750     | Chittenden   | A              | 1,400                    |
| Community Sailing Center  | \$5,000      | Addison, Bennington,<br>Chittenden, Franklin,<br>Rutland, Washington                   | A              | 70                       |
| Dad Guild   | \$9,350      | Chittenden, Franklin,<br>Orleans, Washington   | B              | 431                      |
| Dad Guild   | \$10,000     | Statewide  | B              | 4,000                    |
| DREAM Program   | \$15,000     | Statewide  | A              | 183                      |
| EFMHS   | \$5,000      | Franklin   | A              | 786                      |
| EFMHS   | \$2,000      | Franklin   |                | 391                      |
| Encore After School and Summer Program  | \$8,950      | Essex, Orleans   | A              | 42                       |
| Everybody Wins! Vermont   | \$12,750     | Addison, Caledonia,<br>Chittenden, Orange,<br>Orleans, Rutland,<br>Washington, Windsor | A              | 600                      |
| Finding Our Stride  | \$13,000     | Orange, Windsor  | A              | 79                       |
| Florida School of Holistic Living, Inc. DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary | \$15,000     | Orleans, Washington  | A              | 35                       |
| Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile  | \$12,750     | Franklin, Grand Isle   | A              | 194                      |
| Full Circle Theater Collaborative   | \$10,000     | Chittenden   | A              | 45                       |
| Good Beginnings of Central Vermont  | \$6,150      | Lamoille, Orange,<br>Washington  | B              | 211                      |
| Good Shepherd's Little Lambs  | \$2,000      | Rutland  | A              | 238                      |
| Greater Burlington YMCA   | \$15,000     | Chittenden   | A              | 27                       |
| Inclusive Arts Vermont Inc  | \$15,000     | Statewide  | B              | 683                      |
| Janet S. Munt Family Room   | \$10,000     | Chittenden   | B              | 99                       |
| King Street Center  | \$15,000     | Chittenden   | B              | 323                      |
| Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center                                       | \$1,626      | Chittenden   | A              | 1,500                    |
| Lake Paran Recreations  | \$4,250      | Bennington   | A              | 122                      |

|   |          |   |   |       |
|---|----------|---|---|-------|
| Lamoille Family Center  | \$10,000 | Caledonia, Lamoille,<br>Orleans, Washington | A | 360   |
| Lil' Sunshine Child Care Center, Inc                          | \$1,924  | Orange                                      | B | 22    |
| Lund  | \$2,000  | Chittenden                                  | B | 40    |
| Lyndon Institute  | \$10,000 | Caledonia, Essex,<br>Orleans                | A | 50    |
| Mad River Mentoring   | \$15,000 | Washington                                  | A | 55    |
| MoonRise Therapeutics   | \$12,750 | Windsor                                     | B | 189   |
| Morristown After School Program dba: Clubhouse Kids           | \$2,000  | Lamoille                                    | A | 53    |
| Mountain Communities Supporting Education - The Collaborative | \$10,000 | Bennington, Windham,<br>Windsor             | A | 820   |
| NFI VT family center  | \$15,000 | Chittenden                                  | B | 170   |
| Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.                  | \$15,000 | Caledonia                                   | A | 1,080 |
| Northwest Vermont Foster Grandparent Program                  | \$10,000 | Chittenden, Franklin,<br>Grand Isle         | A | 1,260 |
| Orange County Parent Child Center                             | \$5,000  | Orange, Windsor                             | B | 1,092 |
| Orange County Parent Child Center                             | \$50,000 | Orange                                      |   | 0     |
| Outright Vermont  | \$12,750 | Statewide                                   | B | 103   |
| Outright Vermont  | \$15,000 | Statewide                                   | A | 675   |
| Prevent Child Abuse Vermont                                   | \$12,750 | Statewide                                   | A | 1,200 |
| Prevent Child Abuse Vermont                                   | \$15,000 | Statewide                                   | B | 52    |
| Putney Central School   | \$2,000  | Windham                                     | A | 250   |
| Reinbow Riding Center   | \$760    | Rutland<br>Windsor                          | A | 157   |
| rePlay Arts   | \$10,000 | Windsor                                     | A | 655   |
| River Gallery School of Art                                   | \$15,000 | Windham                                     | A | 433   |
| Rutland County Parent Child Center                            | \$10,000 | Rutland                                     | B | 156   |
| Second Growth, Inc.   | \$12,750 | Orange, Windsor                             | A | 122   |
| Sharon Academy  | \$10,000 | Orange, Washington,<br>Windsor              | A | 145   |
| Springfield Area Parent Child Center                          | \$1,350  | Windham, Windsor                            | A | 147   |
| Sunrise Family Resource Center                                | \$1,985  | Bennington                                  | B | 22    |
| Teen Center   | \$6,375  | Addison                                     | B | 175   |
| Teen Center   | \$7,500  | Addison                                     | A | 32    |
| Teen Center   | \$609    | Addison                                     | A | 162   |
| Umbrella NEK  | \$10,000 | Caledonia                                   | B | 125   |
| Vermont Family Network  | \$1,999  | Statewide                                   | A | 7,336 |
| Vermont Farmers Food Center                                   | \$15,000 | Rutland                                     | B | 90    |

|  |                     |                  |                      |               |
|--|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Very Merry Theatre                                     | \$15,000            | Chittenden       | A                    | 170           |
| Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development | \$2,000             | Windham          | B                    | 55            |
| Youth First Mentoring                                  | \$13,500            | Washington       | A                    | 95            |
| Youth Services, Inc                                    | \$12,750            | Windham, Windsor | A                    | 76            |
| <b>63 Programs</b>                                     | <b>Total Awards</b> | <b>\$617,339</b> | <b>Est. # Served</b> | <b>30,024</b> |

Outcomes Reference Key:

- A) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential
- B) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported

**VCTF Grantees Fiscal Year**

(Alphabetical Order) **2025**

**Barra School** **\$2,000.00**

The Barra School

The Barra School provides free year-round forest and wilderness programming for at-risk and neurodivergent LGBTQIA+ youth and youth of other underserved and marginalized populations. We operate on a cohort model and work with 2-4 cohorts of youth ages 9-18 a year. We are requesting funding for adaptive backpacking equipment which will improve the accessibility and safety of our programming for youth with physical limitations and/or disabilities.

**Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center** **\$15,000.00**

Hike and Seek

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center is collaborating with the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro to build on the success of their "Hike and Seek" pilot program to continue to provide outdoor learning and recreation experiences for youth and their families. This program will operate free bi-weekly on Saturdays from 10AM through noon during the school years, 24-26. Each session of the program will be operated on a drop-in basis at locations around Windham County. This series structure creates access to programming for families in our rural towns, allowing youth and parents/caregivers to attend the sessions that aligns with their schedules. Each program session focuses on different outdoor skills and inquiry-based learning and STEAM.

**Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro** **\$15,000.00**

Expanding BGCB College and Career Support Programming

The Boys and Girls Club of Brattleboro (BGCB) is expanding College and Career Support Programming to include new partnerships, offer new components, and serve more youth in our region. Our plans for this programming during the 2024/2025 school year include:

- 1) Eight College Visit Field Trips
- 2) Ten College and Career Prep Workshops
- 3) Afterschool college and career prep tutoring with professional mentors

Together, these programs will engage community partners to provide youth with the guidance and encouragement they need to pursue higher education and make informed decisions about their futures. BGCB College and Career Support Programs are operated free of charge with the core purpose of helping youth achieve their potential.

**Bradford Teen Center****\$9,100.00**

## Bradford Teen Center

Bradford Teen Center is a drop in teen center in Bradford, Vermont. Our mission is to be a safe space where teens can gather, and engage in programs that empower them. After a successful Culinary Camp last summer, we agreed to create a Program Budget Expansion Project. Starting this year, we will increase our programs budget to include 3 high quality, multi-session courses a year, as well as offer 2-3 field trips through the year. This year will be Culinary, a VR Mindfulness Program, and a filmmaking class with professional teachers.

Each program has a focus on an issue important to our teens: Culinary Camp on food insecurity, Mindfulness on non-clinical mental health support, and the film on racism in our community.

**Cabot School****\$1,736.00**

## Cabot School

Cabot School is a small, rural school providing educational services to a diverse group of children. The equipment we are hoping to fund will provide a sensory break area in the guidance office, or can be portable in a classroom for a time as needed. The squeezie chair and the compression canoe are designed to offer deep pressure, which is soothing and regulating to the nervous system for kids who are feeling out of balance due to a number of factors, including sensory sensitivities, trauma, or neurodivergent diagnoses. The crash pad offers proprioceptive input and muscle activation, both of which also are helpful to calm the nervous system and keep kids in the calm and alert zone for optimal academic and social engagement. This equipment was recommended by an occupational therapist for one specific child, but will benefit numerous children in school. The equipment is designed to be accessed independently by kids, with supervision, teaching valuable self-regulation skills at school.

**Chandler Center for the Arts****\$11,175.00**

## Chandler Youth Theater

Chandler is working to rebuild its Youth Musical Summer Program. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly diminished awareness and participation in the program, which in its heyday served over 100 students from all over Central Vermont each year and last year drew about 30. There is a scarcity of childcare options in the area, and Chandler will fill a need by offering a full-day camp for three weeks during the summer to elementary and high school students. Theater programs and summer camps offer social and emotional benefits, as well as aid in developing skills such as teamwork, creativity, commitment, and literary engagement. They foster mentorship with role models and a sense of community belonging.

**Child Care Resource****\$12,750.00**

## Specialized Child Care

Specialized Child Care supports children in child care with physical or developmental needs, including children up to age 13 in state custody, and children and families experiencing significant short term stress. Supports include child care financial assistance, transportation coordination and securing placement in an appropriate early care program. In addition, CCR staff provide supports and consultation to early childhood educators to help develop teaching strategies, classroom set-up, program culture, and behavior mitigation to prevent expulsion from care. We embody the data which supports the value of safe, healthy and quality early care in preparing children to thrive in school and life.

**Community Sailing Center**

**\$5,000.00**

Diversity in Lake-Based Recreation

CSC was founded to ensure access to lake-based education and recreation for all community members regardless of gender, ability, income, age, race, culture & ethnicity. Now in our 30th year, we continue to seek new ways to ensure lake access and life lessons for all.

The Diversity Access Initiative (DAI) has been designed to mitigate historic, social, and economic barriers to outdoor, water-based recreation experienced by children who identify as BIPOC: free summer camp and afterschool activities, with a pathway to employment.

**Dad Guild**

**\$9,350.00**

Dads & Kids

Dad Guild uses a multifaceted approach to engage father figures in their caregiving roles. Since 2019, the organization has developed and implemented over 600 hours of programming to a growing network of nearly 800 fathers across the state of Vermont. The Dads & Kids program is the organization's most popular, attracting over 200 unique participants (including 90 dads) in the 2021-22 fiscal year. In this program, dads and their children meet up at playgrounds, sporting events, restaurants, nature trails, and libraries to connect with one another. Fathers participating in the playgroups strengthen and grow their own peer support network, while children who participate benefit from strengthening their relationships with their own fathers.

**Dad Guild**

**\$10,000.00**

Dad Guild Digital Content

Dad Guild uses a multifaceted approach to engage father figures in their caregiving roles. Since 2019, the organization has developed and implemented over 750 hours of programming to a growing network of over 1000 fathers across the state of Vermont.

We recently received a grant from the VT Dept. of Health that will support the expansion of our in-person parental education workshop series and also the production of a parental education podcast series. We will expand Dad Guild's onling programming by producing additional online content, purchaing more equipment, and increasing staff time to ensure the highest number of Vermont fathers can access our programming content digitally.

**DREAM Program**

**\$15,000.00**

Growing Dreams: DREAM's Guided Mentoring Program

DREAM's mission is to help close the opportunity gap for at-promise youth.

Historically, we achieve this mission through year-round programming including (1) Weekly after school "Village Mentoring" (2) Summer Enrichment (3) Afterschool Enrichment, and (4) Local and regional adventures taking youth as far as DREAM's residential Camp in northern Vermont, Camp DREAM. All of DREAM's programming is free for enrolled families.

The focus of this grant is to support DREAM's newest program, Guided Mentoring, an in-school peer-to-peer mentoring program in which high school students are trained in mentoring best practice, matched with elementary youth, and guided by DREAM staff through an extensive mentor-in-training curriculum.

**EFMHS** **\$5,000.00**

Pantry

Our school would like to have an open door pantry. Students can grab non-perishable food items to help with their families insecurities. This program is aimed at keeping the minds of students and families on education and on helping to maintain a positive experience from school to home. While feeding and offering food to our community/students will help improve our school climate. In our high school we currently have 34 homeless students. We have 1939 students Enrolled in the high school and out of those students we have over 1100 Economically Disadvantaged. Estimate 56%

**EFMHS** **\$2,000.00**

Pantry

Looking for a grant to help pay for shelving. The shelving would be for items non parishable food items. This would help us maintain first in first out order.

**Encore After School and Summer Program** **\$8,950.00**

North Country Supervisory Union Encore After School and Summer Program

NCSU Encore runs afterschool and summer programs out of nine elementary schools in the NEK. A goal of the program is to keep 6th-8th graders in small rural communities engaged, help them build community, and to leverage their leadership in program, school, community and state decision making. This project would support the establishment and sustainability of a middle school SU-wide GSA (for LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies) that meets for Saturday retreats throughout the year. In these retreats youth will learn advocacy and leadership skills, connect with the local community through service and stewardship, and build community with other youth that they will eventually attend the centralized high school with.

**Everybody Wins! Vermont** **\$12,750.00**

Everybody Wins! Power Lunch

On the 2022 reading NAEP, only 43% of VT 4th-graders scored proficient or above—and only 19% of children in poverty. Reading well and liking to read are tied to further education, well-paying jobs—and a good life as an adult. Everybody Wins! Vermont helps children love to read by matching them one-on-one with volunteer reading mentors who share books & literacy activities and build friendships weekly at school. Children are exposed to new topics & discussions, enhance self-esteem, and show gains in reading skills, self-esteem, and overall classroom performance. Everybody Wins! Connects children with their communities and citizens with their local schools. One principal: "Everybody Wins! Is our most important connection with our community."

**Finding Our Stride** **\$13,000.00**

Finding Our Stride: Deepening Impact on Vermont Youth

Finding Our Stride (FOS) is a FREE, donor-funded, high quality, enriched after-school running program in the states of VT and NH for elementary and middle school aged children. Since 2011, FOS has boosted fitness, self-esteem, and resilience in more than 4,000 runners while connecting them to peers, mentors, and their communities. We are now in 20 VT schools, have created a social-emotional learning curriculum with the Positivity Project, and support children by providing them with impactful relationships with trusted mentors and increased awareness of their own character strengths. VT children can thrive when they know they are strong, competent, and supported.



**Florida School of Holistic Living, Inc. DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary**

**\$15,000.00**

Afterschool in Nature

Afterschool in Nature creates a platform for youth to cultivate an understanding of themselves and the world around them through the natural lens of a holistic out-of-school program. Afterschool in Nature develops future leaders to advocate for the protection of their environmental community while providing the resources to nourish the student's whole self. This program takes place five days a week in rural Vermont on Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary's breathtaking outdoor property, boasting over 600 acres within 80,000 acres of contiguous forests. 100% of youth in this program live in economically challenging circumstances.

**Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile**

**\$12,750.00**

Youth Services Proram

Franklin Grand Isle (FGI) Bookmobile is a mobile library and literacy organization that serves the northwestern corner of Vermont in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. With a primary focus on promoting access to literature and information to help close the education gap between social classes by ensuring Kindergarten readiness, instilling a lifelong love of learning and reading, and supporting vulnerable Vermonters through in-person visits and connecting them with the community. Our unique structure allows us to commute directly to community members, overcoming some obstacles faced by low income Vermonters living in rural communities.

**Full Circle Theater Collaborative**

**\$10,000.00**

Youth Theater Programming Expansion

Full Circle Theater Collaborative (FCTC) is partnering with King Street Center (KSC) to address arts education gaps in Burlington. We plan to reduce access barriers to our programming for low-income families by allowing children to participate for free. Through the 24-25 school year, FCTC will pilot an after-school theater arts programming at KSC for 10 weeks each semester (fall & winter/spring.) Students will devise an original piece of theater to perform for their families and community at their Family Dinner Night and at one of the black box theaters in downtown Burlington. If there is student interest, during FCTC's 2025 summer programming, we will host KSC 10-14-year-olds for one-week midsummer as cast members in FCTC's junior production, culminating in a weekend of performances at Main Street Landing.

**Good Beginnings of Central Vermont**

**\$6,150.00**

Expanding Access to Babywearing

Babywearing enables caregivers to bond with their newborns, manage stress, and care for their baby and themselves. Families worldwide have carried their babies for centuries. But for many families today, babywearing can be expensive - and overwhelming. Carrier options are confusing and complicated; a good quality carrier may cost over a hundred dollars. Many new parents give up after one failed attempt because they lack sustained support and the ability to try different carriers until they find a good fit for their needs. This program breaks down barriers to babywearing via individualized fitting assistance, practical information on how to carry your baby, and access to a variety of carrier types in a supportive, judgment-free environment.

**Good Shepherd's Little Lambs****\$2,000.00**

## Good Shepherd's Little Lambs

Little Lambs serves children ages 6 weeks through 12 years old year-round. After evaluating our needs with parents and staff, it was determined that the children would greatly benefit from having an outdoor classroom within a nature-based learning environment. We have an amazing location however the grounds require immense re-grading before we can add paved pathways, a learning garden, classroom pavilion, dramatic play stage, sandbox, swings, and fencing. It is our desire to create a "playborhood" where families and communities members can come together to play and learn together in a safe, stimulating and shared space.

**Greater Burlington YMCA****\$15,000.00**

## Black Youth in Action

The Black Youth in Action (BYA) Program offers youth a collective space focused on health, wellness, and belonging. Black youth in Vermont have limited opportunities to engage in positive spaces with other Black youth and adults. This program provides that opportunity while creating healthy life habits and discipline to contribute to future success. BYA provides social connection, mentorship, and community service activities for teens, along with opportunities to explore flexible pathways after high school.

**Inclusive Arts Vermont Inc****\$15,000.00**

## Start With the Arts

Start With The Arts instills a lifelong love of learning in Vermont's youngest children by combining direct service arts-based literacy activities for children with professional development for childcare providers. In 2023, Inclusive Arts Vermont launched the pilot of Arts First, a version of the program focused on meeting the emerging and increasing mental health and behavioral needs of children through arts-based social and emotional learning activities. Since that time, we have begun to evolve and reimagine the program based on the pilot session, continuing our commitment to early childhood educators and the children in their care.

**Janet S. Munt Family Room****\$10,000.00**

## Healthy Families From The Start ("HFS")

Support for at-risk new parents is vital to creating safe and secure families who raise resilient children. The system in Vermont is divided in two: those who can pay for supports are able to access doulas, child care, playgroups, and child development classes; and those who can't pay instead rely on the child welfare services. As a result, those who most need continuous, reliable, and nurturing support have the least access to it. Through our Healthy Families from the Start program, we provide prenatal and postpartum doula support for higher-risk families in Chittenden County. We offer online and home-based groups, home visits, education, doula support, and concrete supports from pregnancy through the first 12 weeks postpartum.

**King Street Center****\$15,000.00**

## King Street Center Family Support Program

King Street Center, located in downtown Burlington, serves children and youth ages 18 months to 18 years and their families through our Toddler, Preschool, K-5, Middle School, High School, Mentor, and Family Support programs. Family engagement is critical for student achievement and social development, and is a powerful strategy for sustainable long-term student success. Our philosophical approach is to serve the whole child, which means not just supporting their own development, but also their families so they are able to provide a positive and resilient environment at home. To best serve our families, we are enhancing and expanding our Family Support Program in 2024.

**Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center**

**\$1,626.00**

Floating Classrooms

Floating Classrooms provides standards-based STEM education to 3rd-6th grade students. Students come to CSC from nineteen schools throughout Chittenden County twice per year (fall and spring), with CSC education staff visiting each school up to three times throughout the winter months. Education is focused on lake stewardship and the impact of natural and man-made forces on the environment. The requested equipment will clearly illustrate concepts of topography, watersheds, runoff, erosion, and precipitation in grade-appropriate ways, allowing students to better understand the material. We hope to help students understand that they can already make choices to benefit the lake, and encourage interest in marine sciences.

**Lake Paran Recreations**

**\$4,250.00**

Providing Vital Third Space Summer Learning for Low Income Youth

Paran Recreations INC is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of rural children from low income families. Our goal is to sustain the access of year-round outdoor and place-based education for our surrounding community focusing on youth populations by providing at least 45% of campers with a full funded scholarship to attend our camps throughout the year.

**Lamoille Family Center**

**\$10,000.00**

Nature-Based Outdoor Playgroups

Free, nature-based playgroup programs give all children and families the opportunity to connect with each other and with nature. Currently, these programs reach approximately 200 people multiple times throughout each year via four weekly meet-ups in local communities. Our family-centered playgroups help families in the Lamoille Valley build social connections, gain child development skills, and learn how to access community resources. Together with our partner in this project, the Four Winds Nature Institute, we will offer a series of nature-based playgroups through three different seasons, providing informal education opportunities for families as we model the adult role and language supporting children's nature-based play.

**Lil' Sunshine Child Care Center, Inc**

**\$1,924.00**

Lil' Sunshine Child Care Center, Inc

Lil' Sunshine(LSCC) is a start up child care center. A Grant from First Children's Finance provided funding for most of our basic operational equipment. Health and Safety is a top priority at LSCC, and our equipment requests will enhance this goal. A high quality crib will provide safe and comfortable sleep for an additional child. The gates will keep children within caregivers sight at all times. The outdoor play pen and stroller will allow infants to safely spend time outside in the fresh air. The toddler furniture for the dramatic play area will provide a safe place to store props and easy access will promote independence. Caregivers will model and encourage proper clean-up. All children at LSCC will benefit from this Grant.

**Lund**

**\$2,000.00**

Lund Early Childhood Education Program

Lund's Early Childhood Education Program (LECP) is a 5-STAR rated therapeutic childcare and early education program, specially designed to guide children through the most crucial period of brain development—birth through age five. LECP uses a play-based curriculum, valuing creativity and respect for nature and all living things. This philosophy allows children the opportunity for physical, cognitive and social/emotional development. After recently expanding our infant room capacity and adding 4 new infants, new floor mats and climbing equipment will keep the youngest children at Lund safe and supported as they learn to crawl, walk, and climb.

**Lyndon Institute**

**\$10,000.00**

Early Childhood Career Training & Education

Lyndon Institute (LI), a Town Academy high school and Career & Technical Education (CTE) center, has supported Northeast Kingdom families for more than 155 years. Education in the NEK plays a crucial role; ensuring resilience and sustainability by equipping the next generation with the skills necessary to address the social and economic challenges associated within a historically under-resourced community. Beginning in fall of 2024, Lyndon Institute in partnership with Northeast Kingdom Community Action and CCV will offer early childhood education curriculum focused on careers, licensure as a Teaching Assistant immediately upon graduation, Dual-Enrollment college courses, and targeted education-related internships.

**Mad River Mentoring**

**\$15,000.00**

Mad River Mentoring

Mad River Mentoring (MRM) is a community-based mentoring program serving youth aged 8-18 who live or go to school in the HUUSD. Our program offers the chance for youth to establish 1:1 connections with adults and cultivate supportive relationships. By collaborating with parents/guardians, schools, and other organizations, MRM ensures all interested youth have access to high-quality mentoring opportunities. We strive to foster strong mentoring relationships, thereby enhancing the availability of support and resources crucial for the well-being, sense of belonging, and overall quality of life of our youth.

**MoonRise Therapeutics**

**\$12,750.00**

Moonrise Therapeutics Family Support Services and Family Intervention Services

MoonRise Therapeutics (MRT) is a farm-based nonprofit healing psychological trauma and promoting mental health and well-being. MRT offers prevention and psychotherapy intervention, integrating horses, art and movement, to create a uniquely effective setting for healing and growth. Success will be leveraged by using MRT's Family Support Services, utilizing the Circle of Security attachment based model, as a channel to pilot more intensive clinical intervention services provided to families in crisis. The goal is to help caregivers/children develop healthy secure attachments, which are the foundation for success in school, social relationships and predictive of a general sense of competence and well-being.

**Morristown After School Program dba: Clubhouse Kids**

**\$2,000.00**

Clubhouse Kids

Clubhouse Kids is requesting emergency equipment funding for a commercial refrigerator to replace the failing refrigerators on site to provide safe cold food storage for the meals that are prepared in our kitchen. We believe strongly in offering food programming to our 52 young children per day to ensure their basic needs are met, which leads to more equitable learning and better health outcomes. Over 65% of our children receive state childcare subsidy and many families face serious food insecurity. Many children gain most of their daily nutrition during school. Having proper cold food storage will allow us to sustain the food program, and implement a more nutritious menu by providing ample storage for fresh produce from local farms.

**Mountain Communities Supporting Education - The Collaborative**

**\$10,000.00**

Mountain Communities Supporting Education dba - The Collaborative

TC's Resilience Through Understanding (RTU) Program is a community & school-based series of educational substance misuse & asset-building events for youth in grades 6-12. RTU is available to 9 schools & homeschoolers. This past program season served 357 youth participants and their caring adults. Participants learn about health risks associated with substance misuse & asset-building skills like resilience & coping skills. Participants who attend 5 sessions receive a pass to a local community recreation partner. Last year, TC piloted a spring/summer RTU program season with 3 events and new seasonal incentives. This year, we aim to standardize content by grade and create more equitable opportunities for a more diverse youth population.

**NFI VT family center**

**\$15,000.00**

The Talking Room

The Talking Room is a walk-in/drop-in counseling clinic for parents who participate in the programs at The Janet S. Munt Family Room. This is the collaboration of NFI VT Family Center and The Family Room. The NFI VT Family Center clinician has expertise in parenting support and healing trauma through counseling. The Family Room is known to be the place where refugees and immigrant parents go. The goal is to increase accessible mental health services for parents and caregivers.

**Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.**

**\$15,000.00**

Community Connections - School-based Program

NVRH's Community Connections program supports individuals and families to meet their whole-person wellness needs. Many students and families in the Northeast Kingdom face disproportionate health and social barriers to maximizing their potential, such as social isolation and disconnection, substance use, and marginalization. This new initiative will integrate a Community Health Worker (CHW) at the St. Johnsbury School to meet families where they are utilizing research-informed approaches, such as Strengthening Families, to support child and family well-being. Addressing risk factors for adverse childhood events, juvenile delinquency, truancy, and mental illness, the CHW intervention will support better outcomes for our youth and families.

**Northwest Vermont Foster Grandparent Program**

**\$10,000.00**

Northwest Vermont Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is a unique school-based volunteer program for individuals 55 and older. Foster Grandparent volunteers serve as tutors, mentors, and friends to children. They visit preschools and K-12 schools, working one-on-one or in small groups with children with exceptional needs. Foster Grandparent volunteers contribute crucial educational, social, and emotional support that helps children to reach their full potential.

Engaging program participants in effective, high-quality trainings—which allow them to be helpful and respond to the needs of the children they serve—will allow us to extend the program throughout the Northwest region to support more children.

**Orange County Parent Child Center**

**\$5,000.00**

**PCC Community Supports**

OCPCCC provides a range of supports to help all families get off to a healthy start, promote well-being, and build on family strengths. OCPCCC serves more than 500 families each year and covers about 759 square miles of mountainous terrain with a population that has an average income level more than 10% below the poverty line. In our service region, parents have little access to resources given the rural nature of our community. Grocery stores are 30+ miles away, there is no public transportation and access to medical services is limited. OCPCCC creates a safety net for the community with our supports and resources and we are in a unique opportunity to grow those resources and prevention services throughout our county.

**Orange County Parent Child Center**

**\$50,000.00**

In 2018, the Randolph Early Childhood Education Task Force, a group of volunteers of the Randolph Reenergized Economic Development Task Force (R3 Task Force) formed and focused on increasing affordable access to high-quality childcare services in Randolph and eight surrounding towns. In continuation of that effort, in 2020, the Town of Randolph did a survey for economic development future goals. The top response that resulted from that survey was the need for childcare with a 80-90 infant to pre-school capacity. The Randolph Early Childhood Task Force, through a Community Development Grant from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), hired a consultant to do a needs assessment across nine towns in Orange and Windham counties. They also assessed potential sites for a Randolph childcare center. According to a January 2020 report, it was determined that Orange County as a whole needed an additional 288 infant spots, 93 toddler spots and 213 preschooler spots to meet current and future demand.

In 2022, a collaboration between White River Junction-based Green Mountain Economic Development Corp (GMEDC) and OCPCCC allowed the project to move forward and for GMEDC to purchase the roughly 10,700-square-foot building at 1538 Vermont Route 66 in Randolph to renovate and house the childcare program, while the Tunbridge-based OCPCCC was designated to run the program. Proposed to serve between 80 and 90 children, ranging from infants to preschoolers, it was scheduled to open in the Summer of 2022 at a cost of about \$3M. Due to delays and increasing construction costs after the COVID19 pandemic, the center is now scheduled to begin renovations in late summer 2024 and begin serving children in July 2025.

**Outright Vermont**

**\$12,750.00**

**Expanding and Innovating Programs for Families of LGBTQ+ Youth**

Outright is building a VT where all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power. A crucial step is ensuring that they have supportive adults in their lives - starting at home. According to The Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, "LGBTQ youth who report having at least one accepting adult were 40% less likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year." The goal for our family programs (TransParent, Panorama, Gender Creative Kids) is to equip parents and caregivers to be that accepting and supportive adult. This year, we will add a new member to our Family Programs team, allowing us to increase participation, expand offerings, reach new regions, and apply new innovative approaches to our work alongside families.

**Outright Vermont****\$15,000.00**

## Expanding Gender Sexuality Alliances into Elementary Schools

Outright is building a Vermont where all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power through programs like the vibrant and robust statewide Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Network. While 30% of VT public schools have a GSA, only 2% of the state's GSAs are in an elementary school. Why is this important? Because by age 4, most children have a stable sense of their gender identity (American Academy of Pediatrics), by age 8, the average trans person has socially transitioned, and between ages 10-13, the average LGBTQ+ youth has begun feeling they may not be straight (Pew). Outright is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and affirming environment for young people by celebrating their identities, combating isolation, and making their schools safer, by expanding supports in elementary schools.

**Prevent Child Abuse Vermont****\$12,750.00**

## Project SELFIE (Safe Expression onLine For Internet Empowerment)

Unfortunately, in 2019, 27 % of Vermont high schoolers admitted to either receiving or sending a sext in the past 30 days (YRBS). This can cause youth legal involvement and emotional and social distress. PCAVT's Project SELFIE (Safe Expression onLine for Internet Empowerment) will decrease the numbers of youth who engage in and are harmed by sexting. The program is a developmentally appropriate, trauma informed, sexting prevention program to increase digital safety for youth. It includes presentations for middle and high school students and training for adults on decreasing the digital risks: sexting, online grooming, inappropriate digital communications by adults to youth, and online pornography. Evaluations show the program works!

**Prevent Child Abuse Vermont****\$15,000.00**

## InsideOut Dad: Parent Education and Support for Fathers Inside and Outside Prison

PCAVT will facilitate groups with incarcerated fathers to support their understanding that their role in their children's lives is irreplaceable. Participating in our InsideOut Dad® Program is a life-changing experience leading to families' and children's lives changing for the better. Supporting a strong relationship between a child and their father can mitigate the negative consequences for the child and lower recidivism rates.

The program's focus is on developing self-awareness, caring for self, fathering skills, parenting skills and relationship skills. These abilities support fathers becoming more involved, responsible, and committed fathers to their children, thus interrupting the intergenerational cycle of abuse and trauma.

**Putney Central School****\$2,000.00**

## Putney Central School Bike Program

Over the past three years we have established an active bicycle program based out of Putney Central School. This program includes housing a fleet of bikes for our students to use during school and summer programming, a shed to store them, and tools for our students to learn the skills to maintain this fleet. The funds requested in this application would go towards purchasing materials to construct elements of a community bike park on our campus. The materials purchased would include wood (approx. \$1500) and hardware (approx. \$500). The features designed and build include jumps, banked curves, drop in ramps, rollers, etc. These features would be an exciting addition to the existing infrastructure of bike program, and would be available for youth to use during school hours, as well as outside of school time during the evenings, weekends and throughout school breaks.

**Reinbow Riding Center**

**\$760.00**

Therapeutic Horsemanship Lessons

Reinbow Riding Center has been providing therapeutic horsemanship lessons to individuals and groups of children age 3 to teenagers from schools, military families, and referrals for over 15 years. It is a safety requirement that during those lessons all participants must wear safety helmets while at the Center and especially while working with the horses, a focal point of their lessons, and often the key to opening their hearts and minds to new experiences, learning, attitudes and behaviors.

Each helmet has an expiration date on its effectiveness. At the end of each year, Reinbow personnel checks the inventory and discards those that have reached that expiration. While we generally rotate them on a regular basis so there are only a few that expire each year, following Covid, our program was in great demand by local schools and we had to buy quite a few more helmets to accommodate the increase of participants. Those helmets reached their expiration date at the end of 2024.

**rePlay Arts**

**\$10,000.00**

Piloting Artcycle Workshops with New Youth Organization Partners

rePlay Arts will coordinate and implement 32 Artcycle workshops with both new and existing partners. Launched in 2023, Artcycle teaches creative reuse artmaking skills using art supplies donated by community members. We plan to launch new partnerships with youth service organizations in Vermont's Upper Valley towns.

Artcycle workshops will be scheduled and tailored to enrich the activities available to the populations served by each partner. We will operate free of charge for any partner identifying cost as a barrier.

**River Gallery School of Art**

**\$15,000.00**

Art in Schools

River Gallery School's Art in Schools (AIS) residency program places teaching artists in 3 elementary schools in Southern Vermont. The 2024-2025 school year will be our 4th year offering this program to local students in the Brattleboro area. Younger grades receive monthly visits by the same teaching artist, building relationships, artistic identity and confidence in students over the course of the year and culminating in a year-end showcase community event. Older students participate in a month-long intensive in the spring, building art installations in their classrooms, schools and communities. AIS supports community building and individual resilience for elementary students through exploratory art making aligned with the school's values.

**Rutland County Parent Child Center**

**\$10,000.00**

RCPCD Dads' Group

The Rutland County Parent Child Center is implementating a pilot "Dads' Parenting Group" program. Our agency currently hosts a weekly daytime parenting education class that utilizes the Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework. We recognize that there are limited spaces within our community however that specifically address or aim to empower fathers. This pilot program is designed to give dads in Rutland County a space to gain social connections and education that will support their journey through fatherhood and help them become more actively engaged within the community.



**Second Growth, Inc.****\$12,750.00**

## Second Growth Summer Camp

Second Growth provides counseling, youth programs, prevention education, and recovery supports for youth and families in our community. We provide FREE registration to middle school students who wish to attend Camp, thereby eliminating barriers to entry for low- and moderate-income families. Our long-standing summer programs are designed to provide social-emotional learning, prevention education, develop leadership skills, and offer other enrichment through experiential learning activities. Each year we update the curriculum to include new research, best practices, and improve efficacy. In recent years we have expanded into new towns and offered additional weeks in order to reach a broader audience.

**Sharon Academy****\$10,000.00**

## TSA's Work-based Learning Program

The Sharon Academy (TSA) provides relevant, comprehensive education to rural VT students in grades 7-12, ensuring graduates are equipped to thrive in a constantly changing and increasingly complex world. Adolescents in rural VT need reasons to engage in school and ways to imagine themselves as successful professionals meeting their immense potential. Students will explore real, virtual, online, or simulated work environments through a Work-based Learning Program (WBLP) designed to develop skills and connect academic principles with real-world applications. WBLPs are crucial pathways for post-secondary readiness and are essential to modern learning. Introducing a WBLP at TSA will greatly benefit students.

**Springfield Area Parent Child Center****\$1,350.00**

## Preschool Smartboard

Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing a wide range of community services to residents of Southern Windsor and Northern Windham Counties. At the heart of our organization is PlayWorks Child Center which aims to provide children with a nurturing environment in which to grow and learn. With this funding, SAPCC will purchase a "Smart Board" for the PlayWorks preschool classroom. A smart board is an interactive display used by educators to whiteboard project lesson materials, play videos, and give presentations. The advantages of smart boards in the classroom are multifaceted and transformative for engaging students in dynamic learning experiences and fostering collaboration.

**Sunrise Family Resource Center****\$1,985.00**

## Sunrise Family Resource Center ECE

Sunrise is a non-profit organization, one of 15 parent-child centers in the State of Vermont. We provide many services to families in the Bennington county. The ECE program provides priority care to student-parents in our Learning Together program as well as families that are getting services from Sunrise's other programs, and families that have DCF involvement. We have old and worn out shelving, cribs, nap mats, and not enough toddlers plates to serve the children in our classrooms. Some of these items are falling apart. We have been going through a staff shortage for the last year which has prevented us from filling our center to full capacity, this has given us no funds to use for the ECE programs equipment that is wearing out.

**Teen Center** **\$6,375.00**

ConnecTeen 2: The Sequel

The Teen Center is a community space for teens serving the ACSD school district. We plan to continue a program piloted last year, ConnecTeen. ConnecTeen was designed to bring teens and parents together for a fun night of food, games, crafts, or projects. The idea was simply to make it easier for teens to connect with their trusted adults. This year, we will expand our idea of 'parent', and invite trustworthy community members to our events.. For those teens who are reticent to invite their parents (and many are, because, well, they're teens), we will provide more social connections with adults in the community, with the hope of strengthening our teens' sense of belonging, ability to seek guidance, and access to support.

**Teen Center** **\$7,500.00**

Play for Keeps

The Teen Center provides after school drop-in to teens in Addison County, as well as no-cost enrichment and summer programming. We encourage teens to use our space to explore their interests and talents. Teens who have not found an interest by middle- or high school often feel like they have missed their chance. For many of our teens, this is tied to their socio-economic status, as their families could not afford lessons or equipment when they were younger. Teens internalize this into thinking they are not as talented or capable as their peers, which affects confidence and drives anxiety. Play for Keeps (PfK) will allow teens to earn their own equipment while learning a new talent, setting them up to be lifelong, confident learners.

**Teen Center** **\$609.00**

The Teen Center

The Teen Center offers space for local youth to build community with free events, summer camps, and after school drop-in, providing free food to foster an inclusive environment. While many youths gravitate toward indoor activities such as art and video games, they have requested a Gaga Ball Pit. Gaga Ball is a fast-paced dodgeball variation where players strike others below the knee with a ball to get one another "out" and players must keep the ball inside the pit. The Gaga Pit would encourage outdoor play, enhancing teens' health, well-being, conflict resolution skills, and social connections. It would also be accessible for all Middlebury residents to enjoy competitive outdoor fun.

**Umbrella NEK** **\$10,000.00**

Umbrella Early Prevention Education Program

Our mission is to cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella's core programs include Social Change, Advocacy, and Family-Based Services. Social Change offers gender-based and substance misuse prevention in local schools and other community settings. Advocacy supports survivors of domestic and sexual violence with a variety of services. Family-Based supports include Kingdom Child Care Connection which helps to connect families to child care financial assistance and referrals and the Family Room, our supervised visitation program. Through this grant, Umbrella will offer evidenced-based prevention curriculums in child care settings in the Northeast Kingdom.

**Vermont Family Network**

**\$1,999.00**

Puppets in Education

The Puppets in Education program needs to update the puppet presentation and workshop set up, as per evaluation feedback from teachers, to have the most effective social emotional presentations for VT's children. Our stage is over 15 years old and is held together with duct tape. We have been using donated items for the workshop and it is not as successful as we would like it to be. We are in need of a new stage, rear projector and screen. Our programs have the most impact when children lose themselves in the story and world the puppets create. Having faulty equipment can break the powerful connection with the children and then the important messages the puppets are teaching are lost. New equipment will let us focus on the programming.

**Vermont Farmers Food Center**

**\$15,000.00**

Farmacy: Food As Medicine Shares for WIC Identified Families in Rutland County

Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) has operated a food as medicine program, Farmacy, since 2015, sourcing locally grown produce from Rutland county farms to support patients signed up through their healthcare provider. In 2024, we will expand this offering to 25 families signed up through Womens, Infant and Children (WIC) here in Rutland county with a pick up site at BROCC Community Action, giving the children and families access to resources and support in one place. These families will receive 15 farm fresh shares during the summer, July-October, and a monthly farm share Nov-May as well as nutrition and cooking education. Receiving the proper nutrition and eating seasonally will help nourish the children and set them up for success.

**Very Merry Theatre**

**\$15,000.00**

Very Merry Theatre Afterschool and Summer Programming in Winooski

Very Merry Theatre is expanding access to theatre arts-based after school and summer camp programming to children in Winooski. Winooski's population of young people includes a high percentage of youth from the global majority. We will extend the collaborative partnership with Winooski Parks and Recreation to offer year round afterschool and summer programming characterized by Very Merry's inclusive approach to developing literacy skills, communication skills and teamwork to children from a range of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

**Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development**

**\$2,000.00**

Winston Prouty Center

We currently have 4 classrooms serving 40 children ages 2 months to 5 years old. We believe that the environment has the power to shape how and what children can learn, and that in the right environment every child can thrive. Having a high-quality sensory table in each classroom has been cost prohibitive. Our ability to support our students through sensory play would be helped by access to several high-quality sensory bins. This grant could help us support students-particularly our ELL students, and those who get services for speech-with materials for sound panels to reduce the echo in our preschool room. We would also invest in rubberized mats giving children access to climbers in the classroom, reducing stress for teachers

**Youth First Mentoring****\$13,500.00**

## Youth First Mentoring

YFM plans to boost the protective factors of our established community mentoring program by offering an enrichment program that involves our youth in the arts, sciences, outdoors, service, and wellness. This will close the opportunity gap our at-risk youth face, enhance youth and mentor recruitment, strengthening social connectedness, resilience and outcomes for youth. The youth we serve are often deprived of typical enriching and educational experiences because of the risk factors they face (poverty, parental absence, e.g.). We will augment this with an educational program for mentors on adolescent development, adverse childhood experiences, and mental health first aid, which will boost protective factors in their mentor relationships.

**Youth Services, Inc****\$12,750.00**

## Friends For Change

Friends For Change is a grassroots community program built for and by youth in June of 2016. In partnership with our local substance abuse prevention coalition, we've built a program that specifically addresses the unique needs of our often overlooked community members. Our entire program is rooted in identifying and responding to the needs of marginalized and most impacted youth and families. We provide after-school and summer programming where youth and their families thrive and learn how to build a stronger community.