



BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

## VCTF GRANTS LIST 2026

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 2026.

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

# VCTF Grant Summary 2026

## VCTF Grant Awards

<b>Number of Grants</b>	74
<b>\$ Amount of Grants</b>	\$698,107

## 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 2026 . Some programs operate in more than one county.

<b>County</b>	<b># of Grants</b>
Addison	6
Bennington	7
Caledonia	9
Chittenden	16
Essex	3
Franklin	4
Grand Isle	1
Lamoille	2
Orange	13
Orleans	6
Rutland	8
Washington	13
Windham	10
Windsor	16
Statewide	10

## Programs by Targeted Outcomes

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -	56
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported -	17

## VCTF Grant Award List 2026

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Est. # Served</u>
ACORN YOUTH ARTS INC	\$12,000	Caledonia, Orange, Washington, Windsor	A	60
Arlington Area Childcare Inc	\$10,000	Bennington	A	118
Barra School, Inc	\$12,000	Caledonia, Orange, Washington, Windsor	A	150
Bennington Early Childhood Center, Inc	\$1,964	Bennington	A	35
Bennington Early Childhood Center, Inc	\$2,000	Bennington	B	65
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center	\$12,750	Windham	B	155
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro	\$12,750	Windham	A	259
Bradford Teen Center	\$50,000			400
Camp daybreak	\$1,850	Rutland Statewide	A	80
Chandler Center for the Arts	\$15,000	Orange, Windsor	A	112
Changing Perspectives	\$15,000	Caledonia, Essex, Orleans	A	3,100
Child Care Resource	\$10,800	Chittenden	A	1,400
Civic Standard	\$825	Caledonia	A	45
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	\$12,000	Lamoille	B	200
Come Alive Outside	\$15,000	Washington	A	3,000
Dad Guild	\$7,950	Chittenden, Franklin, Orleans, Washington	B	425
DREAM Program	\$12,750	Statewide	A	183
Early Learning Center, Inc.	\$964	Chittenden	A	48
Education Justice Coalition of Vermont	\$12,000	Addison, Chittenden, Orleans, Washington	A	115
Encore After School and Summer Program	\$7,600	Essex, Orleans	A	40
Essex CHIPS	\$12,000	Chittenden	B	85
Essex CHIPS, Inc.	\$2,000	Chittenden	A	165
Everybody Wins! Vermont	\$10,800	Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windsor	A	300
Family Place	\$15,000	Orange, Windsor	B	245
Florida School of Holistic Living DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	\$15,000	Orange, Washington	A	34
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	\$10,800	Franklin, Grand Isle	A	189
Georgia's Next Generation	\$1,200	Franklin	A	40

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$5,225	Lamoille, Orange, Washington	B	211
Greater Burlington YMCA	\$12,750	Chittenden	A	25
Greater Burlington YMCA Inc.	\$1,957	Chittenden	A	110
Hatch, Inc. DBA HatchSpace	\$12,000	Windham	A	50
Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History	\$12,000	Addison, Statewide	A	1,190
Junior Milers	\$10,000	Chittenden	A	60
Kid Logic Learning	\$1,998	Chittenden	B	71
King Street Center	\$12,750	Chittenden	B	228
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center	\$4,250	Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, Washington	A	70
Leahy Center for Lake Champlain	\$12,000	Statewide	A	2,700
Lil' Sunshine Child Care Center, Inc	\$1,982	Orange	A	18
Lyndon Institute	\$10,000	Caledonia, Essex, Orleans	A	41
Mad River Mentoring	\$10,000	Washington	A	40
Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley	\$700	Caledonia, Orange	A	19
MINT, Rutland's Makerspace	\$12,000	Rutland	A	245
MoonRise Therapeutics	\$10,800	Windsor	B	184
Mountain Communities dba The Collaborative	\$15,000	Bennington, Windham, Windsor	A	1,020
Mountain Views Supervisory Union	\$13,540	Windsor	A	130
New England Center for Circus Arts	\$1,798	Windham	A	600
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.	\$12,750	Caledonia	A	1,080
Outright Vermont	\$10,800	Statewide	B	88
Outright Vermont	\$12,750	Statewide	A	675
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$10,800	Statewide	A	1,200
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$12,750	Statewide	B	48
Replay Arts Nonprofit Inc	\$1,849	Windsor	A	675
Rhythm of the Rein Inc	\$1,900	Caledonia Washington	A	27
River Gallery School of Art	\$12,750	Windham	A	428
Rutland County Parent Child Center	\$2,000	Rutland	B	450
Rutland County Parent Child Center	\$2,000	Rutland	B	1,500
SafeArt	\$1,284	Orange, Washingto, Windsor	A	30



**Arlington Area Childcare Inc**

**\$10,000.00**

Arlington Area Childcare Inc,

Arlington Area Childcare Inc is transforming their existing summer and afterschool programs into a comprehensive support center for children in Bennington County, Vermont, facing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), educational setbacks, and insufficient supervision during out-of-school periods. This lack of structured summer programs in Bennington County is alarming. This contributes to food insecurity, summer learning loss, and limited access to safe recreational activities. Their initiative aims to address these challenges by providing trauma-informed care, academic enrichment, and social-emotional support in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Barra School, Inc**

**\$12,000.00**

OUTReach and OUTings Program for At-Risk, Trauma-Impacted, Neurodivergent, LGBTQIA+, and Otherwise Marginalized Youth in Orange County, VT

The Barra School is expanding their year-long overnight programming to include afterschool and weekend-based OUTReach and OUTings programming to support at-risk, trauma-impacted, neurodivergent, LGBTQIA+, and otherwise marginalized youth in Orange County and surrounding areas.

**Bennington Early Childhood Center, Inc**

**\$1,964.00**

Bennington Early Childhood Center

We have just installed a paved bike path for our students to ride tricycles and scooters. We have a fleet of high-quality tricycles and scooters from Community Playthings. They are almost 20 years old and although they are still functional, some could use to be replaced. We would also like to increase the number of tricycles we have available so that more children can ride at once. The funds requested through this grant will all go towards additional tricycles and scooters.

**Bennington Early Childhood Center, Inc**

**\$2,000.00**

Bennington Early Childhood Center

We need to purchase a new (or used) commercial size refrigerator without a freezer. The ones I have researched cost about \$3000 if purchased new. We do not have funds in our budget to cover the full cost of a new refrigerator. We believe it would benefit us to purchase one new so that it will last longer than a used one. We provide breakfast and afternoon snack to the children in our center and need this refrigerator to store the food and milk that we serve.

**Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center**

**\$12,750.00**

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**

**\$12,750.00**

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**

**\$50,000.00**

The Prevention 360 project is rooted in our belief that meeting basic needs and broadening perspectives is the most effective way to prevent cycles of poverty, substance use, mental health struggles, isolation, and prejudice. Focusing on youth and their families, this project aims to be a consistent, accessible resource that provides food, education, meaningful experiences, and safe community connection—all free of charge. Since moving into a larger space to better serve our growing membership, we're expanding our ability to provide food & necessary supplies to teens and their families, and investing in infrastructure like a full kitchen, dedicated pantry space, and reliable internet access. Transportation is a big need in our rural area, and we hope in the near future to be able to provide transportation not only on our "field trips", but to and from the teen center. With "Get Outta Town!", we aim to expose youth to diverse experiences beyond the limits of their isolated communities. Prevention 360 is a full circle project that sets young people and low income families up for greater chances of long term success.

**Camp daybreak**

**\$1,850.00**

Camp Daybreak 2026

Camp Daybreak needs an automated external defibrillator (AED) because sudden cardiac arrest can occur without warning, even in children and adults with no known history. Immediate defibrillation is the most effective treatment; survival decreases by about 7–10% for every minute without it (American Heart Association, 2023).

Camp Daybreak moves to a different residential location each year, so we cannot rely on consistent on-site emergency equipment. Having our own AED ensures rapid access regardless of location, reducing response time while emergency medical services are en route. This makes the AED a critical, portable, life-saving device that directly protects campers, volunteers, and staff.

**Chandler Center for the Arts**

**\$15,000.00**

Summer Youth Theater

Chandler Center for the Arts is continuing to grow its Youth Musical Summer Program. In its heyday, the program served over 100 students from all over Central Vermont, and we are growing back each year.

This summer, rec programs are being cut, and there is a scarcity of childcare options in the area. Chandler fills 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.

**Changing Perspectives****\$15,000.00**

## Changing Perspectives in the Northeast Kingdom

Changing Perspectives will provide direct support and resources to schools in the Northeast Kingdom to implement social-emotional learning practices. Geographic and economic obstacles prevent schools in the region from gaining access to high-quality SEL programming. Social-emotional learning refers to an array of fundamental skills (e.g., emotional regulation, building healthy relationships) that are linked to personal, academic, and professional success.

Changing Perspectives is an educational nonprofit that partners with preK-12 schools to advance thinking and practice around SEL and inclusion. We support schools in five ways: curriculum, family workshops, educator professional development, site visits, and educator coaching.

**Child Care Resource****\$10,800.00**

## 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.

**Civic Standard****\$825.00**

## Hardwick Skatepark Collective

Support from the Vermont Children's Trust would allow us to purchase skateboarding equipment to benefit Hardwick youth for years to come. After months of community conversations and fundraising, the Hardwick Skatepark Collective—a youth-led initiative at the Civic Standard, driven to create a skatepark in our town—was able to build a mini-ramp this past May. The project generated meaningful partnerships, including with our fire department which allowed the ramp to be housed behind their station. Since then, the dialogue around skateboarding in Hardwick has shifted. Where once neighbors were concerned about youth skating down Main Street for lack of a better-suited location, now there is pride for those who built the first safe, high-quality skateboarding equipment in town.

The Collective's next venture is a series of beginner lessons taught by an experienced member of the group. This project is not only an opportunity to grow the skateboarding community in our rural town, but also a means of harm reduction in an area where many people are affected by economic hardship, homelessness, and addiction. We have witnessed members of the Collective overcome such challenges or avoid them altogether, in part because of access to a community of their peers, positive mentorship, and material resources. At the Civic Standard, we believe play is as vital as other basic necessities. With your support, we can continue expanding how we build a new culture alongside local youth.

**Clarina Howard Nichols Center****\$12,000.00**

## Healthy Relationships Prevention Program

Founded in 1981, the Clarina Howard Nichols Center works to end domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking in Lamoille County. Clarina's direct services include a 24-hour hotline, an emergency shelter, and legal, medical, and housing advocacy. To achieve their mission, they focus on prevention. Through this grant, Clarina offers age appropriate, evidence-based healthy relationship and consent education in early childhood programs throughout Lamoille County. In addition, Clarina will offer Askable Adult training for early childhood staff and parents.

**Come Alive Outside****\$15,000.00**

## Outdoor Passports For Barre and Beyond

The Come Alive Outside Outdoor Passport program is a free, interactive booklet that encourages children and families to engage in hyper-local outdoor activities where they live, work, and play. Each Passport includes 25+ activities across four categories: Make Your Own Adventure, Investigate Local Parks, Discover Local Foods, and Explore Your Community. By completing activities, participants build stronger connections to nature, improve well-being, and engage with their communities. Successfully implemented in Rutland County for nine years, it will be piloted in Barre in summer 2025, prioritizing families facing the highest health inequities

**Dad Guild****\$7,950.00**

## Dads &amp; 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.

**DREAM Program****\$12,750.00**

## Growing Dreams: DREAM's Guided Mentoring Program

DREAM's mission is to help close the opportunity gap for at-promise youth. Historically, they 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. This grant supports 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.

**Early Learning Center, Inc.**

**\$964.00**

Early Learning Center, Inc.

The Early Learning Center seeks funding to expand its sensory tool library through the acquisition of specialized equipment designed to support children’s cognitive, emotional, and physical development. These tools will promote inclusion and provide therapeutic benefits for children with sensory sensitivities. Our future location will have a room specifically designed for sensory breaks. Children enrolled at the Early Learning Center represent a diverse population with varying developmental needs. The current sensory library is limited in scope and lacks varied equipment that could more effectively support regulation, engagement, and learning. Upgrading the space will help address these gaps and provide equitable access to sensory interventions. Our goal is to support neurodivergent learners better in our community and these additions will create a safe, stimulating space where all children, especially those with sensory processing challenges, can engage, regulate, and grow in alignment with our core values.

**Education Justice Coalition of Vermont**

**\$12,000.00**

Summer Social Justice Camp Statewide Pilot Program

The Summer Social Justice Camp fosters youth leadership development and community engagement by providing a platform for youth to plan and facilitate their own day camp. Youth will work with local community partners to learn about social justice issues and related advocacy skills. Focus areas may include: antiracism, youth gun violence, LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, and reproductive freedom. Hosted in four regional locations across Vermont, this new program builds upon the previously existing youth leadership training series by the Education Justice Coalition.

**Encore After School and Summer Program**

**\$7,600.00**

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.

**Essex CHIPS**

**\$12,000.00**

Essex CHIPS Teen Center

In line with their mission to support, engage, inspire, and empower youth to make healthy decisions and become active community members and leaders, Essex CHIPS will hold bi-monthly Teen Nights. These free, third space Friday events will provide a safe, healthy, and engaging environment for teens. Program offerings will include healthy snacks, supervised games, STEM activities, and special guest speakers covering topics such as healthy living, community engagement, leadership, and career exploration. Additional special events will feature movies, sports, and other interactive activities.

The intent is to be an enriching and fun experience for youth seeking productive social time.

**Essex CHIPS, Inc.**

**\$2,000.00**

Essex CHIPS Teen and Tween Center

CHIPS is requesting funding to replace an air hockey table and a pool table that were previously part of the Center and were heavily used before becoming damaged and needing to be disposed of. Since reopening, youth have repeatedly asked for these activities to return to the space.

We are seeking support to purchase a sturdy, 4-in-1 multi-game table (pool, air hockey, table tennis, and dining) that will maximize our space while offering students multiple ways to play, gather, and connect. Replacing this equipment will support social engagement and youth development by providing shared activities that encourage turn-taking, cooperation, and positive peer interaction. Table games also offer an important alternative to screen-based activities and help staff maintain a structured, supervised environment during unstructured time.

This equipment will also support our efforts to re-engage older teens, including high school students through grade 12, outside of regular Teen Center programming through Club Connect Mondays. This third-space program provides opportunities for students with shared interests to gather outside of school and home. At a recent Club Connect Monday, interest in having a pool table and air hockey was echoed by this age group.

Being responsive to youth voice is central to our approach. Investing in equipment young people have identified as important helps draw teens into the space and supports ongoing participation.

**Everybody Wins! Vermont**

**\$10,800.00**

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."

**Family Place**

**\$15,000.00**

Child and Family Therapy Program

The Family Place is planning the sustainable expansion of their Child and Family Therapy Program, in order to address the well-documented need for mental health services for families with young children in the Upper Valley, particularly those affected by trauma. After expanding the capacity of their program by hiring two new Child and Family Therapists in 2024-2025, they are planning to increase their outreach to ensure they are reaching all parts of our service area, provide training and consulting to community partners who work with children and families to amplify their reach, and integrate their therapists into their Early Care and Education Program to provide training, classroom support and consultation for their early educators.

**Florida School of Holistic Living DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary**

**\$15,000.00**

Afterschool in Nature

Hosted on 600 acres of wilderness in rural Vermont, Afterschool in Nature is an out-of-school program that provides a platform for youth to cultivate a greater understanding of themselves and the natural world around them. Activities such as trail camera monitoring of wildlife, tracking, and plant identification, introduce students to research methods, scientific analysis, and bioregional ecology. Afterschool in Nature supports the whole child with a hands-on approach that is trauma-informed and holistic.

**Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile**

**\$10,800.00**

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.

**Georgia's Next Generation**

**\$1,200.00**

Georgia's Next Generation

We are requesting this funding to restock our school with loose parts and other natural materials with the intention of promoting imagination, creativity, and independence. Our school has historically had only loose parts, recycled materials, and other natural materials in it's classrooms and our goal is to reintroduce this play to the children out our school. Loose parts play is vital to the learning and development of children's ability to control their own play, model the things they see in the world around them, and connect with their environment.

**Good Beginnings of Central Vermont**

**\$5,225.00**

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.

**Greater Burlington YMCA**

**\$12,750.00**

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.

**Greater Burlington YMCA Inc.**

**\$1,957.00**

Y Early Childhood Program at GBYMCA

We are respectfully requesting funding to purchase full-body rain suits for children in the Y's Early Childhood Program. Outdoor play is central to our philosophy and curriculum—but without proper waterproof gear, it becomes harder for children to fully participate, especially during Vermont's muddy spring and wet fall. While some families can provide high-quality outerwear, many send children in warm but not waterproof gear. Outfitting children with seasonal gear is expensive, and not all families can provide waterproof clothing—limiting some children's ability to participate fully in outdoor play.

This funding will allow us to purchase 65 rain suits to build a shared inventory across classrooms. These suits will improve our ability to get children outside more often and for longer stretches, in all seasons. They will also ease a common challenge for educators: navigating concerns from families uncomfortable with children getting wet or messy—concerns that can limit outdoor time, which is essential for hands-on learning, exploration, and development.

With suits on hand, we can increase time outdoors and in the community, and ensure more children have equitable opportunities to explore, move, and learn. This investment supports our goal of helping all children build resilience, curiosity, and confidence—regardless of the weather.

**Hatch, Inc. DBA HatchSpace**

**\$12,000.00**

HatchSpace Youth Design+Build Programs

HatchSpace is expanding their Youth Design+Build Camps by piloting a new Woodworking Intensive camp for young people. During the summer of 2026, HatchSpace will offer five grant funded Youth Design+Build Camps, including their new Intensive Camp, two sessions of our Skateboard Build Camp, and two sessions of our Rosie's Girls Camp. All of these programs expand youth engagement opportunities for learning trades skills in southern Vermont. Outcomes of these programs include exposure to career skills as young people build confidence, relationships, and projects with wood and tools. A total of 50 young people will participate in these camps during the grant period, with recruitment supported by community outreach and existing partnerships.

**Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History**

**\$12,000.00**

HSM Imagining the Future Makerspace

All ages are invited to play, create and tinker in the Henry Sheldon Museum's new kids' makerspace. This space is designed to support and nurture museum visitors across various disciplines, from history to the arts & humanities to the world of technology. This Makerspace fosters community and family connections and provides a platform for creativity and innovation. From painting fun 3D animal pets to woodworking your own pixel art to learning to stitch a sampler, this VCTF grant supports hands-on learning and creative expression in the makerspace. The Henry Sheldon Museum aims to inspire kids, families and communities to engage, create, and connect right in the heart of Middlebury!

**Junior Milers****\$10,000.00**

## Junior Milers

Junior Milers is a free, inclusive running program offered to kids between the ages of 10-18. They partner with local youth organizations including the King Street Youth Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Miller Center as well as local middle schools and high schools to find at risk youth in the community. They reduce barriers to participation by providing a new pair of running shoes, race entry fees, nutrition, and professional coaching. The program enhances kids physical fitness while exposing them to a positive social environment with peers, coaches, and mentors as they train for local running races, culminating in late May by participating in the Relay of the Vermont City Marathon.

**Kid Logic Learning****\$1,998.00**

## Kid Logic Learning

Our dryer is in no longer working condition and our washer is not woking well at all, they are both 6 years old and need immediate replacement. Having a new washer and dryer will support our program in keeping materials sanitary for cleaning of children and materials in classrooms, support in following regulations to do so and ensure a safe environment for all.

**King Street Center****\$12,750.00**

## 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.

**Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center****\$4,250.00**

## Diversity in Lake-Based Recreation

Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center 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 their 30th year, they 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.

**Leahy Center for Lake Champlain****\$12,000.00**

## Early Education STEM Outreach

ECHO Science Center is expanding its Early STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education Outreach Program, which provides hands-on STEM-based education activities and curricula and teacher training in preschool and 1st-grade classrooms and other early learning programs in predominantly underserved communities across Vermont.

Activities are both facilitated and self-guided, are offered in-school and remotely, and are planned to reach an estimated 75 educators and 900 students annually in more than 60 classrooms. The program addresses a shortage of STEM expertise among early childhood educators in many school districts and supports the science learning readiness critical to current trends in elementary education.

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

**\$1,982.00**

Lil' Sunshine Child Care Center, Inc

Vermont measures child care quality through a 5-level STARS (STep Ahead Recognition System) program, which recognizes centers that exceed basic licensing requirements. Our program director is currently working towards earning a level 2 STAR. Improving the quality of care often requires significant investment. We are seeking funding to integrate the Arts permanently into our Outdoor Classroom. The weather proof art easel in our outdoor classroom will foster creativity, hand-eye coordination, sensory stimulation and fine motor development. Music provides numerous benefits for toddlers, supporting development across several key areas, including emotional regulation and brain development. The Musical Fence consists of vertical, galvanized, metal tubes spaced closely together that make musical sounds when children drag their hand or mallet along the pipes. These pipes teach them about the randomness of sounds, and that making "music" is up to them. Funding for these two pieces of equipment will move our outdoor classroom beyond basic, minimal programming and provide a truly high-quality experience.

**Lyndon Institute**

**\$10,000.00**

Early Childhood Career Training & Education

Lyndon Institute, a Town Academy high school and Career & Technical Education center, has supported NEK 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. Lyndon Institute in partnership with Northeast Kingdom Community Action and CCV will advance the pilot program started in fall of 2024 by growing capacity in support of VT's need for ECE professionals with career-focused curriculum, licensure as a Teaching Assistant upon graduation, Dual-Enrollment college courses, and targeted education-related internships

**Mad River Mentoring**

**\$10,000.00**

Mad River Mentoring

Mad River Mentoring is a community-based mentoring program for youth, aged 8-18. They work with families, schools, and local groups to ensure all youth in the HUUSD have access to high-quality, 1:1 mentoring. Our goal is to create strong support networks for young people to reach their full potential. They will continue to offer formal, adult-to-youth mentoring as well as provide more resources and support to participants. Additionally, they will launch a series of free, weekly, mentoring groups led by our mentors. The groups will be open to all interested youth, with content based on their interests. Through these efforts they seek to increase the support and resources youth need to thrive.

**Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley**

**\$700.00**

We are our own fiscal agent

A laptop is essential to The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley (TMPUV) and is central to every aspect of our work with youth and mentors across 11+ rural Vermont towns. Our director relies on a laptop for daily operations, securely managing confidential participant data, tracking mentor-mentee interactions, and maintaining accurate digital records. A laptop also enables us to recruit, screen, and train mentors through online outreach, digital resources, and virtual meetings, a critical strategy in a geographically dispersed area.

Prompt and consistent communication with schools, families, and community partners depends on digital tools accessed through a reliable laptop. It is also indispensable for creating and managing social media, website updates, and digital materials that raise program awareness and help us reach new volunteers and supporters.

A laptop is vital for grant writing, budget tracking, and outcome reporting, ensuring TMPUV's sustainability and accountability. Our director uses it to develop and share trauma-informed, equity-centered resources and to access current best practices in youth mentoring. Because our work is community-based and often remote, a laptop ensures flexibility and secure, consistent, access to essential files and tools. In summary, a laptop is an essential tool that enables TMPUV to connect, support, and uplift youth across the Upper Valley.

**MINT, Rutland's Makerspace**

**\$12,000.00**

The MINT youth programming

The MINT Makerspace is a vibrant facility where innovation and creativity converge. More than just a shared workshop full of tools, The MINT is a community of people sharing knowledge, experience, and ideas. Offerings include ceramics, printing, woodworking, jewelry, textiles, and more.

This grant supports staffing for our STEAM Camps for primary school-age youth. They offer eight week-long camps per year during school breaks and summer vacation, serving a total of 240 youth per year through these camps. The need for high-quality, fun, and educational programming is high in our community. Each year, these programs fill and often have a wait list. With this support from VTCTF, kids will learn, play, and create in a safe and fun environment.

**MoonRise Therapeutics**

**\$10,800.00**

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.

**Mountain Communities dba The Collaborative**

**\$15,000.00**

Mountain Communities Supporting Education dba - The Collaborative

The Collaborative's Resilience Through Understanding® (RTU) program is a community and school-based asset-building education series for students in grades 6-12 and their caring adults. There are currently 400 youth enrolled from 10 local schools and the homeschool community, with over 600 caring adults supporting them. The program addresses substance misuse and the physical, mental, and social well-being of youth by providing vetted programs, promoting community involvement, and offering a season pass from a local recreation sponsor as a healthy incentive. As agency is vital in promoting youth thriving, these funds will establish a Youth Advisory Board and a Caring Adult Advisory Board to guide the direction of future programming.

**Mountain Views Supervisory Union**

**\$13,540.00**

Annual Student Leadership Conference for Regional Schools

In 2021, Mountain Views School District assessed the rising problem of substance abuse among high school students. Their solution is an annual Student Leadership Conference that teaches students to make healthy life choices and identify dysfunction before it triggers substance abuse, violence, or mental health issues. The Conference empowers students with problem-solving and conflict resolution skills. It also develops leadership skills that help students guide peers, teachers, and our district to better communication, equity, diversity, inclusion, and stronger connections. Fifty students attended the first Conference, all from MVSU's Woodstock school. Demand is soaring, and in 2025 they expect 130 students from 4 high schools to attend.

**New England Center for Circus Arts**

**\$1,798.00**

Youth Programming

NECCA offers classes and camps for youth starting at age 1 1/2 to 17 at our Trapezium and in the community with host organizations. We utilize crash mats - 4' x 8' x 8" thick - for safety but they wear out over time and must be replaced to maintain safe programming. We are in need of replacing them now and they are approximately \$899 each plus shipping estimated at \$435.

**Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.**

**\$12,750.00**

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.

**Outright Vermont****\$10,800.00**

## 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. They plan to add a new member to their Family Programs team, allowing them to increase participation, expand offerings, reach new regions, and apply new innovative approaches to their work alongside families.

**Outright Vermont****\$12,750.00**

## 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****\$10,800.00**

## 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****\$12,750.00**

## 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.

**Replay Arts Nonprofit Inc**

**\$1,849.00**

Materials Storage Equipment for rePlay Arts' Classroom

In January 2025, rePlay Arts moved to a larger facility where we created a designated classroom for onsite programming. Since completing renovations in May 2025, we have added onsite hands-on programs to our existing roster of outreach programs. Specifically, these programs have included the following two tracks of workshops focused on building skills, creativity, confidence, and community:

1 - Public programs with visiting teaching artists

2 - Partnership programs with groups served by community based organizations

Each workshop centers a different creative project using donated materials to engage participants of all ages and abilities. Piloting these two workshop tracks has demonstrated how our new classroom can successfully support groups in creating hands-on projects and establishing new relationships. This pilot has revealed the need for specialized equipment to organize and store program materials to maximize classroom efficiency while creating a welcoming and accessible environment for participants, many of whom have disabilities and sensory sensitivities. A rolling tool cart will allow us to store our wide variety of artmaking tools so that they are accessible to all, and staff and students can clearly see and choose the tools they need for their comfort and ability level. Storage cabinets with doors will allow us to store large quantities and heavy materials in a way that is accessible, but not is visually overwhelming and can be closed off as needed.

**Rhythm of the Rein Inc**

**\$1,900.00**

Rhythm of the Rein Therapeutic Horsemanship

We need an efficient and dependable trailer to continue processing the bottle donations we receive. This money stream is essential for caring for our equine partners who are the keystone to our successful therapeutic horsemanship program. If we cannot keep our horses in proper health and condition we no longer have the means to offer our services that have benefited Central Vt and the Northeast Kingdom for years. While we only indicate two counties which are where this equipment will be utilized, our clients come from chittenden, lamoille, orange, essex,orleans as well

**River Gallery School of Art**

**\$12,750.00**

Art in Schools

River Gallery School's Art in Schools (AIS) residency program places teaching artists in three elementary schools in Southern Vermont. The 2024-2025 school year was their 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**

**\$2,000.00**

The Pleasant Street Market

We are requesting grant funding to support the grand reopening of our newly renovated pantry, which serves children and families in our community. Thanks to the generosity of a local donor and the hard work of volunteers, we were able to complete major upgrades—including new flooring, freshly painted walls, and a custom-built desk donated by a local craftsman.

To complete this transformation, we are seeking funding for essential equipment: new shelving units and 2 utility carts. The shelving will allow us to better organize and store food, making items more accessible for families, while the carts will help us safely and efficiently transport goods to and from the pantry space.

Additionally, we have expanded our available storage by reconfiguring the layout, allowing us to introduce a new dietary specialty section. This area is dedicated to meeting the unique needs of families with specific dietary restrictions—such as gluten-free items—as well as cultural preferences.

This equipment will help us provide a more inclusive, dignified, and efficient service to families who rely on us for support.

**Rutland County Parent Child Center**

**\$2,000.00**

Early Childhood Education

We are requesting grant funding to purchase a commercial dishwasher for use in our campus space at the Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC). Our facility hosts a wide range of early childhood education programming, family support groups, community gatherings, and partner-led services. Because food is a central part of many of these programs, having the ability to safely and efficiently clean dishes and kitchen items is essential.

Meals and shared food experiences play an important role in building connection, reducing barriers to participation, and supporting the well-being of children and families. Many families who attend programming rely on these meals as a reliable source of nutritious food during the day. Without an adequate dishwasher, staff must spend significant time handwashing dishes, which is inefficient and makes it difficult to maintain the sanitation standards required for early childhood environments.

A commercial dishwasher would allow our team to safely serve meals and snacks during early childhood programming while also supporting the many community events, parenting groups, and partner activities that take place in our gathering space year-round. This equipment will help ensure that RCPCC can continue to provide a welcoming, healthy environment where children and families can learn, connect, and access the supports they need.

**SafeArt**\$1,284.00

## Youth Empowerment Program

We are requesting grant funding to replace old kitchen equipment in our community space. SafeArt's "kitchen" has minimal equipment that is old and inefficient. We want to be able to incorporate making lunches together with the youth in our programs, teach them cooking skills, all while sharing and building community around food. What we eat is so important and many of our youth do not have access to healthy foods.

Cleopatra (SafeArt Director) is a trained chef with over 15 years of professional cooking experience. They have researched and picked out items that would provide our youth programs with a wide range of cooking skills.

SafeArt provides so much for our community, adults, and youth participants - all focused on making healthy, healing choices - yet we have struggled to incorporate more in-depth food needs due to our limited space and cooking supplies. This new equipment would benefit the youth and families by building a space for conversation and education around food, food sources, and how to prepare various foods.

Our summer camp kids have requested potluck style meet ups throughout the year so that they can keep in touch with each other. This equipment would make events like that take shape.

We've also requested a portable washing machine for kitchen towels and other small washing needs. This would also benefit our youth programming that involves tie-dye and other natural dyes - all of which need our fabrics to be washed.

**SafeArt, Inc.**\$12,000.00

## Youth Empowerment Program

SafeArt's Youth Empowerment Program focuses on advocacy, education, and fun for youth interested in fostering individual and communal growth. Addressing the critical need for well-being and social justice programming for youth in Vermont, this program combines trauma-informed trainings, healing arts, and play to educate and empower middle and high school aged youth. They work with the young people to identify and address their needs, creating safe spaces for them to share their voice. Through paid positions, summer camps, and year-round afterschool groups, youth develop skills and confidence in themselves and each other.

**Safeline, Inc.**\$12,000.00

## Safeline Youth Outreach Prevention Pilot Project

Through this year-long pilot program, Safeline's Youth Advocate will deliver direct outreach to eight school, library, and youth group sites in Orange and Windsor counties, reaching 204 students grades pre-K through high school with programming on developing healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent. They will also provide targeted resources to help teachers and librarians discuss healthy relationships as well as sensitive issues concerning domestic, sexual, and teen dating violence so that they can respond to students in need.

**Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research DBA Sandglass Theater**

**\$9,114.00**

**Sandglass Theater Elementary School Residency Tour**

Sandglass Theater seeks support with hosting residencies for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students attending three of Vermont's rural elementary schools. Our school residency program includes six days onsite in classrooms with each school partner, totaling eighteen classrooms served throughout the project. Our three partnering schools have limited access to arts enrichment opportunities. During each residency, the Sandglass Youth Engagement Coordinator will present a live performance, facilitate a puppet building workshop, and engage students in interactive theater games focused on performance and communication skills. Sandglass will provide a study guide to classroom teachers, helping integrate the residencies into existing lesson plans.

**Second Growth, Inc.**

**\$10,800.00**

**Second Growth Summer Camp**

Second Growth provides counseling, youth programs, prevention education, and recovery supports for youth and families in our community. They provide free registration to middle school students who wish to attend Camp, thereby eliminating barriers to entry for low- and moderate-income families. Their 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 they update the curriculum to include new research, best practices, and improve efficacy. In recent years they have expanded into new towns and offered additional weeks in order to reach a broader audience.

**Southern Vermont Arts Center**

**\$15,000.00**

**Doubling the Number of Youth Served at the Southern Vermont Arts Center by the end of 2027**

Southern Vermont Arts Center employs one person in the Education Department as Education Manager. She manages all educational programming for all ages. In 2023-24, SVAC is proud to report that attendance grew three-fold and served over 4,500 youth. SVAC can reach many more youth with an additional full-time staff member. Their community has asked for more programming. With another person, SVAC will offer extended days to support working families; increase outreach to schools for more school visits and field trips to SVAC; provide a greater presence at partners' events; add additional programs for children and adults with special needs; and create more programming at SVAC for single-day holidays when school is closed and for teachers' professional development days.

**Spectrum Youth & Family Services**

**\$15,000.00**

**Multicultural Youth Program (MYP)**

Spectrum's Multicultural Youth Program (MYP) supports multicultural youth and families in northern Vermont by nurturing connections to the community, and giving youth knowledge, life skills, leadership opportunities, and encouragement for success. Nearly all MYP youth (91%) identify as BIPOC, including 52% who are English Language Learners. In 2025, MYP will engage at least 300 multicultural youth at their schools and in the community to build positive peer relationships; engage in recreation and enrichment programs that are safe and healthy; and receive support and guidance from staff they can relate to who share their language, culture, and experiences as newcomers to Vermont. This funding from VCTF will allow this critical work to continue.

**Starksboro Cooperative Preschool**

**\$1,156.00**

Starksboro Cooperative Preschool

We are requesting grant funding to purchase six carpets for the newly renovated Starksboro Cooperative Preschool. Our updated space now has a polished concrete floor, which, while durable, is cold and hard for young children. These carpets will provide warmth, comfort, and a soft surface where preschoolers and toddlers can safely play, learn, and gather. We also plan to place a carpet in each of our two new office spaces. Soft carpeting throughout the preschool will help create a welcoming, cozy environment that supports the well-being and development of the children and families we serve, while also contributing to a more comfortable and pleasant workspace for our staff.

**Sunrise Family Resource Center**

**\$1,838.00**

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 are currently not fully staffed and have low child enrollment that is currently causing the Early Care and Education program to not have enough funds to get a new dishwasher.

**Teen Center**

**\$5,425.00**

ConnecTeen 2: The Sequel

The Teen Center is a community space for teens serving the ACSD school district. They 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, they will expand their idea of 'parent', and invite trustworthy community members to their events.. For those teens who are reticent to invite their parents (and many are, because, well, they're teens), they 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.

**Vermont Family Network**

**\$12,000.00**

Vermont Family Network's Puppets in Education's new Resiliency Program

Vermont Family Network (VFN) empowers and supports all Vermont families of children with special needs. VFN's program Puppets in Education (PiE) uses life-sized puppets to teach educational programs for PK-6 students. PiE programs model effective leadership and problem-solving skills and demonstrate respect and inclusion in all communities. For 44 years, PiE has connected with children through powerful puppet programs that address social and emotional issues. PiE reaches 10,000 children annually in VT & NY schools. Their pilot Resiliency Program will take students on a journey of one puppet's resiliency in the face of hardship, promoting engaging discussions that address the key elements of building resiliency.

**Vermont Farmers Food Center**

**\$12,750.00**

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. They plan to will expand this offering to 25 families signed up through Womens, Infant and Children (WIC) 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**

**\$12,750.00**

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.

**Windsor County Mentors**

**\$10,000.00**

School Mentoring

Windsor County Mentors has provided youth mentoring services in Windsor County, VT, for 50 years. Over this time, Windsor County Mentors has developed a robust mentoring infrastructure with both school-based and community match programs, creating over 1,500 mentoring pairs across these rural communities.

The need for this program is clear, as high rates of absenteeism and social isolation continue to negatively impact students in our largely rural service area. Over the past three years, they have continued to expand at the request of schools and parent groups into areas that entirely lack mentorship programs.

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

**\$1,613.00**

Early Learning Center's Farm to School program

We are requesting funding to overcome structural barriers to teachers' use of our Farm to School garden for learning. We have maintained an educational garden since 2017 to foster an early exploration of where healthy food comes from. Over the years, there has been one teacher, the Garden Coordinator, who primarily takes care of the garden, which led to one group of children spending the most time there. We have practiced rotations for the Garden Coordinator to facilitate garden exploration and cooking with other groups regularly. However, we are striving to encourage use of the garden by all teachers. We seek to mitigate their structural barriers and continue to provide professional learning and leadership. We believe that the garden is a setting not only for learning about nature and food, but also for all the same learning objectives that one can practice indoors including motor skills, observation, language, and problem-solving. Children who visit and tend the garden will also understand deeply how they can grow something beautiful and nourishing from a small seed. By adding equipment that facilitates learning, safety, and comfort, all children in our Center can benefit from the emergent learning opportunities offered by the garden and its produce.

**Young Writers Project Inc****\$10,000.00**

## The Tomorrow Project

Young Writers Project (YWP) is an independent youth arts organization that began in 2006 in Burlington, VT, with a mission to inspire, mentor, publish, and promote young writers and artists. All programming is free. YWP has a vibrant online community of some 4,000 teens, mostly from Vermont. The Tomorrow Project is YWP's new civic engagement program in which teens create, publish, and exhibit their powerful writing and visual art on the issues of today – with hope and solutions for tomorrow. Youth, ages 13-19, connect with each other and their Vermont communities around issues such as democracy, human rights, and climate change.

**Youth First Mentoring****\$11,475.00**

## Youth First Mentoring

Youth First Mentoring plans to boost the protective factors of their established community mentoring program by offering an enrichment program that involves youth in the arts, sciences, outdoors, service, and wellness. This will close the opportunity gap at-risk youth face, enhance youth and mentor recruitment, strengthening social connectedness, resilience and outcomes for youth. The youth they serve are often deprived of typical enriching and educational experiences because of the risk factors they face (poverty, parental absence, e.g.). They 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****\$10,800.00**

## Friends For Change

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