



VCTF GRANTS LIST 2027

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

VCTF Grant Summary 2027

VCTF Grant Awards

Number of Grants	46
\$ Amount of Grants	\$485,562

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 2027 . Some programs operate in more than one county.

County	# of Grants
Addison	4
Bennington	4
Caledonia	5
Chittenden	9
Essex	5
Franklin	4
Grand Isle	3
Lamoille	3
Orange	6
Orleans	6
Rutland	7
Washington	8
Windham	9
Windsor	10
Statewide	7

Programs by Targeted Outcomes

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -	36
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported -	10

VCTF Grant Award List 2027

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Est. # Served</u>
Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire and Vermont	\$13,900	Windham	A	25
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center	\$10,850	Windham	B	155
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro	\$10,850	Windham	A	259
Central Vermont Refugee Action Network	\$11,160	Washington	A	67
Chandler Center for the Arts	\$12,750	Orange, Windsor	A	112
Changing Perspectives	\$12,750	Caledonia, Essex, Orleans	A	3,100
Children's Room (Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury)	\$8,788	Chittenden, Lamoille, Washington	B	350
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	\$13,900	Lamoille	B	215
Come Alive Outside	\$12,750	Washington	A	3,000
Dad Guild	\$13,900	Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Orange, Windsor, Statewide	B	469
DREAM Program	\$10,850	Statewide	A	183
Essex Pediatrics Strengthening Families Initiative	\$11,160	Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Washington	B	908
Family Place	\$12,750	Orange, Windsor	B	245
Florida School of Holistic Living DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	\$12,750	Orange, Washington	A	34
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	\$6,975	Franklin, Grand Isle	A	405
Greater Burlington YMCA	\$10,850	Chittenden	A	25
Hatch, Inc DBA HatchSpace	\$11,160	Bennington, Windham, Windsor	A	58
Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History	\$10,200	Addison, Statewide	A	1,190
Junior Milers	\$8,500	Chittenden	A	60
King Street Center	\$10,850	Chittenden	B	228
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center	\$3,625	Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, Washington	A	70
Leahy Center for Lake Champlain	\$10,200	Statewide	A	2,700
Lyndon Institute	\$8,500	Caledonia, Essex, Orleans	A	41
Mad River Mentoring	\$8,500	Washington	A	40
Mentor Connector	\$13,900	Rutland	A	40
Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley	\$11,160	Caledonia, Orange	A	10
Mountain Communities dba The Collaborative	\$12,750	Bennington, Windham, Windsor	A	1,020

Mountain Views Supervisory Union	\$11,500	Windsor	A	130
North Country Supervisory Union	\$6,975	Essex, Orleans	A	25
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.	\$10,850	Caledonia	A	1,080
Northern Altitude	\$2,000	Rutland	A	180
Outright Vermont	\$10,850	Statewide	A	675
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$10,850	Statewide	B	48
River Gallery School of Art	\$10,850	Windham	A	428
Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research	\$10,085	Windham, Windsor	A	420
Second Growth, Inc.	\$9,300	Orange, Windsor	A	120
Southern Vermont Arts Center	\$12,750	Bennington, Rutland, Windham	A	7,850
Spectrum Youth & Family Services	\$12,750	Chittenden	A	170
Springfield Area Parent Child Center	\$11,160	Windham, Windsor	A	164
Umbrella Inc	\$12,544	Caledonia, Essex, Orleans	B	130
Vermont Family Network	\$11,160	Statewide	A	400
Vermont Farmers Food Center	\$10,850	Rutland	B	70
Very Merry Theatre	\$0	Chittenden	A	165
Very Merry Theatre	\$11,160	Grand Isle, Orleans, Rutland	A	306
We R. H.O.P.E., Inc	\$13,900	Orleans, Rutland, Windsor	A	2,696
Youth First Mentoring	\$9,750	Washington	A	55

46 Programs	Total Awards	\$485,562	Est. # Served	30,121
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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) **2027**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire and Vermont **\$13,900.00**

Landmark College Mentoring Partnership

Big Brothers Big Sisters is partnering with Landmark College to match college students with youth at Putney Central School in one-to-one mentoring relationships beginning in the 2026–27 school year. This site-based program will strengthen school engagement, social-emotional development, and belonging for participating youth, factors closely linked to academic confidence and long-term aspirations. It also provides Landmark students with meaningful leadership and service opportunities, fostering civic engagement within the college community.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center**\$10,850.00****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**\$10,850.00****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.

Central Vermont Refugee Action Network**\$11,160.00****CVRAN Youth Enrichment Fund**

The CVRAN Youth Enrichment Fund opens doors for refugee and immigrant children in Central Vermont by making high-quality sports, arts, STEM, outdoor, and leadership programs truly accessible. Many families face financial, language, and transportation barriers that keep their children on the sidelines. This Fund removes those barriers with scholarships, transportation support, multilingual guidance, and essential materials—ensuring every young person can participate, grow, and thrive. By connecting youth to enriching activities and strong peer networks, the Fund builds confidence, belonging, and the foundation for long-term well-being.

Chandler Center for the Arts**\$12,750.00****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**\$12,750.00****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.

Children's Room (Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury)**\$8,788.00****Waterbury Dads Club**

The Children's Room of Waterbury seeks funding to support the Waterbury Dad's Club, a program designed to strengthen relationships between fathers, father figures, and male-identifying caregivers and their children. The club will provide welcoming opportunities for dads to spend intentional time with their children through shared play, outdoor exploration, and community connection. The program will also help fathers connect with one another, share parenting experiences, and build supportive social networks. By creating inclusive, engaging experiences, the Waterbury Dad's Club will promote healthy child development, strong family bonds, and a more connected community.

Clarina Howard Nichols Center**\$13,900.00****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 our mission, we must focus on prevention. Through this grant, Clarina will offer 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**\$12,750.00****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**\$13,900.00****Dads & Kids Playgroups: Statewide Expansion**

Dad Guild is Northern New England's largest fatherhood community, with a growing network of approximately 2,500 dads and masculine-identifying caregivers across Vermont. Facilitating over 300+ events every year, Dad Guild's activities fall into four program categories: Fatherhood Peer Support Network, Dads & Kids, Caregiver Education, and Whole Family Events. The Dads & Kids program offers a wide range of activities for fathers to engage in with their children including library playgroups, playground playgroups, arts & crafts, board games, infant massage, nature walks, sporting events and more. After finding much success in Chittenden County, Dad Guild is looking to expand the Dads & Kids program to 8 additional regions across Vermont.

DREAM Program**\$10,850.00****Growing Dreams: DREAM's Guided Mentoring Program**

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

Essex Pediatrics Strengthening Families Initiative**\$11,160.00****Family Resilience Program**

Essex Pediatrics Strengthening Families Initiative (EPSFI) was created in July 2024 to provide support for children and families experiencing barriers to wellness in Vermont. We provide access to integrated support services for mental health, education and skills development, and optimal parenting.

EPSFI continues to formalize our family resilience program to include home visiting, with targeted parent education and training, as well as facilitation of parent and child mental health support groups. The program will provide support, psychoeducation, and care coordination through trained home visitors to facilitate family connection and parent-child

Family Place**\$12,750.00****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

\$12,750.00

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

\$6,975.00

Youth Literacy Services

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile is a mobile library and literacy organization serving rural communities in northwestern Vermont. We bring books, learning activities, and community connections directly to children, youth, and families who face barriers to accessing community resources. Our focus is on helping to close the education gap by making reading and learning exciting, fun, and accessible. By traveling to towns across Franklin and Grand Isle counties, we are able to meet people where they are, in their driveways, in a way that traditional libraries and organizations cannot. Our unique structure brings information, books, and connection right to the people who need it most.

Greater Burlington YMCA

\$10,850.00

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.

Hatch, Inc DBA HatchSpace

\$11,160.00

Expanding HatchSpace Youth Design+Build Programs Year Round

HatchSpace, a woodworking school and community workshop, will expand our Youth Design+Build programs to year round by continuing to offer our six weeks of summer youth camps and by offering at least two after school sessions in the fall and spring terms. These 7 programs will be offered in collaboration with strategic nonprofit community partners and local schools in Windham County. Grant funding will enable us to expand in the 2026/2027 year to offer new after school programs in fall and spring while continuing our summer camps, and then sustain this level of programming in 2028 and 2029. At least 50 young people ranging from entering 7th graders to high school seniors will participate in these programs during the grant period.

Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History

\$10,200.00

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**\$8,500.00**

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.

King Street Center**\$10,850.00**

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**\$3,625.00**

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**\$10,200.00**

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.

Lyndon Institute**\$8,500.00****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**\$8,500.00****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.

Mentor Connector**\$13,900.00****Positive Connections Initiative**

The Mentor Connector seeks support for the Positive Connections Initiative, expanding early mentoring in Rutland County, Vermont with a special focus on matching children ages 7 to 10, when habits around learning, relationships, and behavior are rapidly forming. The program connects youth with trained adult mentors who meet weekly to build trusting relationships, strengthen social and emotional skills, and support positive decision making. By ensuring children have a consistent caring adult before challenges escalate, the initiative strengthens families, supports healthy development, and helps prevent future truancy, substance use, and school disengagement.

Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley**\$11,160.00****Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley**

The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley is a community-rooted, relationship-driven nonprofit providing independent mentoring for youth ages 9–18 across the Orange East Supervisory Union and Rivendell Interstate School District. We support young people navigating complex circumstances such as trauma, poverty, or limited access to trusted adults by meeting them with empathy, consistency, and respect. In partnership with schools, families, and community organizations, we thoughtfully match screened and trained local mentors with youth based on compatibility and shared interests. Through regular in-person connection, group activities, and service projects, we build trust, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging.

Mountain Communities dba The Collaborative**\$12,750.00****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**\$11,500.00****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.

North Country Supervisory Union**\$6,975.00****The Neuro-Inclusive Collective (Middle School Autism & Allies Hub)**

NCSU Encore serves nine rural schools in the Northeast Kingdom. We are launching The Neuro-Inclusive Collective, a specialized afterschool hub for middle schoolers (grades 6-8) on the autism spectrum and their peer allies. Located at the NCSU Family Center with support from their staff, this youth-led club provides a "third space" where neurodivergent students build genuine friendships, leadership skills, and community through shared interests. By providing door-to-door van transportation and expert staffing, we remove the barriers of rural isolation. Our goal is to ensure students on the spectrum are empowered to lead and thrive as they transition toward the centralized high school.

Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.**\$10,850.00****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.

Northern Altitude**\$2,000.00****Mountain Access**

We are requesting funding to ensure that all children participating in the Program's skiing and snowboarding activities have access to the necessary safety equipment, specifically helmets and goggles. Providing this essential equipment will alleviate the financial burden on families desiring to participate, thereby increasing the Program's accessibility and reach.

Furthermore, by procuring new, reputable equipment, the Program can guarantee that all gear meets current safety standards, effectively protecting participants when needed.

Outright Vermont**\$10,850.00****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**\$10,850.00****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.

River Gallery School of Art**\$10,850.00****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.

Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research**\$10,085.00****Sandglass Theater Elementary School Residency Program**

After a successful pilot with strong community feedback, Sandglass Theater seeks support to expand our school residency program for 2nd–4th grade students at four rural Vermont elementary schools. We will host seven days onsite in classrooms with four partner schools (three new partners, one repeat), serving twenty classrooms in total. Many of these schools have limited access to arts enrichment. During each residency, the Sandglass Youth Engagement Coordinator will provide an educator orientation, present a live performance, lead a puppet-building workshop, and facilitate interactive theater games that build movement and communication skills. Teachers will receive a study guide to help integrate the residency into existing lesson plans.

Second Growth, Inc.**\$9,300.00****Second Growth Summer Camp**

Second Growth Summer Camp is a multi-faceted program for local middle-school children that provides prevention education and enrichment curriculum wrapped in activities and adventures. Registration is free thanks to funding from Vermont Children's Trust Foundation and other generous donors, thereby eliminating barriers to entry for low- and moderate-income families. Each year, Second Growth enhances our curriculum to include new research and improve efficacy. Our long-standing summer programs are designed to provide social-emotional learning, prevention education, develop leadership skills, and offer other enrichment through activities, group discussion, and experiential learning activities based in arts, athletics, and fun in the sun!

Southern Vermont Arts Center**\$12,750.00****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**\$12,750.00****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.

Springfield Area Parent Child Center**\$11,160.00****First Expressions: Early Childhood Arts Program**

First Expressions brings the arts to life for SAPCC's youngest learners and their families. Through quarterly artist residencies in our early childhood program, local dancers, musicians, and visual artists will lead hands-on creative experiences for children in our care. Each residency will conclude with a family-centered community event open to enrolled families and local children ages birth to six. These gatherings will feature performances and interactive activities that invite families to explore creativity together. By connecting young children with professional artists and welcoming families into the experience, First Expressions expands access to high-quality arts learning while strengthening community connection and engagement.

Umbrella Inc**\$12,544.00****Umbrella's Early Prevention Education Program**

Umbrella's mission is to cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Through our Advocacy, Family-Based Services, and Social Change programs, we support survivors, strengthen families, and prioritize prevention. We are seeking funding to expand our Early Prevention Education Program, piloted in 2024–2025, by bringing our Boss of Our Body curriculum to two childcare centers and four kindergarten classrooms each year. This program teaches young children essential body safety skills. We will also provide one annual adult training to help caregivers and teachers become more “askable” and confident discussing safety and healthy relationships.

Vermont Family Network**\$11,160.00****Vermont Family Network's Puppets in Education's new K-6 Upstander Program**

Vermont Family Network (VFN) empowers and supports all Vermont children, youth, and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. VFN's Puppets in Education (PiE) program uses engaging, life-sized puppets, animals, and creatures to teach social-emotional learning, safety, and inclusion to PK–6 students. For 45 years, PiE has helped children build empathy, problem-solving, and leadership skills through interactive storytelling. Each year, PiE reaches more than 10,000 students in Vermont and New York schools, continually adapting programs to address the evolving needs of children and families.

Vermont Farmers Food Center**\$10,850.00****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**\$0.00**

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.

Very Merry Theatre**\$11,160.00**

Three Year Program Grant

Very Merry Theatre aims to provide affordable and accessible theatre arts summer camp programming in 3 rural VT communities. While VMT's home base is in Burlington, through this grant we aim to advance our mission to build strong, inspired youth and communities by offering camps in locations where access to theatre arts programming is less available. We intend to accomplish this goal through building sustainable partnerships with community members in three rural locations. More broadly we hope to enrich the lives of children and families through offering high quality and enriching summer camp experiences where children can make friends, develop literacy, leadership, and social skills, and experience the joy and magic of storytelling.

We R. H.O.P.E., Inc**\$13,900.00**

Hope Without Barriers: Student Access Fund

We R H.O.P.E. embeds trained Brain Health and Wellness Coaches in K-12 schools 5 days per week, delivering 1 on 1 brain health & wellness coaching to students at no cost to families. Since 2017, we have served over 2,000 students across multiple states, consistently producing 35-66% reductions in anxiety and depressive symptoms within 60-90 days. Vermont families face long waitlists, workforce shortages, and limited access to behavioral health support. We R H.O.P.E. closes that gap by bringing services into schools where students already are. Grant funding will sustain and expand coach placements in Vermont schools over the next three years, ensuring children receive early, consistent support before challenges escalate into crisis.

Youth First Mentoring**\$9,750.00**

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.