



Examples of Successful Activation Fund Projects

The Health Foundation's Activation Fund supports discrete projects designed to activate:

- Creative and innovative approaches to alleviate community health concerns;
- An organization's movement to the next level of capacity and effectiveness, which can then be sustained;
- Partnerships of organizations to address health issues with new strategies; and/or
- The exploration of emerging health challenges and opportunities.

In general, Activation Fund grants are limited to a 12-month duration (October-September). While grant amounts vary based upon funding availability and project scope, **request amounts in the range of \$60,000 - \$120,000 are encouraged in 2022**. The Foundation's goal is that Activation Fund grant projects will not require ongoing fundraising efforts for sustainability. As you can see from the examples below, there are many ways that projects can be sustained.

126 Chandler Street Rooftop Project

Grantee – Worcester Common Ground

Grant Awarded –September 2020

Grant Amount—\$100,000

Grant funding enabled Worcester Common Ground to purchase and install a rooftop greenhouse with hydroponic growing equipment as a key feature of its affordable housing project at 126 Chandler Street in Worcester. The building targets residents whose income is between 30 and 60 percent of the area's median income and may rely on SNAP benefits. The grant was aimed at helping encourage healthy eating and addressing food insecurity among potential residents. The greenhouse program will be sustained through a partnership with a local nonprofit farming organization called 2GetherWeEat, which will teach tenants how to grow their own vegetables.

Radiologic Technology Upgrades

Grantee –Quinsigamond Community College

Grant Awarded –September 2020

Grant Amount – \$70,790

Through this grant, Quinsigamond Community College upgraded instructional equipment and related software in their Radiologic Technology program consistent with equipment most commonly used in hospitals and healthcare settings in the Greater Worcester community. By updating this technology, the QCC School of Healthcare is better able to prepare students for the workforce. As a result of this change, the school has been able to attract more qualified students to the program and secure additional clinical sites for student training.

Telehealth Implementation Project

Grantee – LUK

Grant Awarded –September 2019

Grant Amount – \$104,648

Grant funding enabled LUK to utilize telehealth services to increase access to behavioral health services in the North Central MA area. When the project began in October 2019, LUK was not providing any telehealth services. The fortuitous timing of the grant enabled LUK to be prepared to offer telehealth services just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The number of telehealth sessions delivered far exceeded the organization's initial goals due to the required shift to virtual services for the majority of 2020. LUK is now well-positioned to sustain its telehealth service offerings with reimbursements available through MassHealth and private insurance companies.

Saving Housing Opportunities in Worcester
Grantee – Community Legal Aid

Grant Awarded – September 2019
Grant Amount – \$86,482

Grant funding enabled Community Legal Aid to hire a new staff housing attorney focused on improving housing conditions negatively impacting tenant health and preventing homelessness among Worcester residents. Community Legal Aid sets aside fees generated through awards granted by the court or through settlements with opposing parties to sustain the position. The timing of the project was ideal with the onset of the pandemic and resulting eviction crisis impacting so many vulnerable households. The project has been successful in generating fees and changing expectations of the court regarding the legal aid community's propensity to seek fees.

Handicap Accessible Van
Grantee – NEADS World Class Service Dogs

Grant Awarded – September 2018
Grant Amount – \$60,544

Through this grant, NEADS purchased a new handicap accessible van to transport its clients and service dogs. NEADS' trainers use the van for training with clients using manual chairs, power chairs, and scooters and for transporting entire training classes. The van has the ability to transport up to seven clients (without apparatus) and their service dogs or transport three to four clients with their wheelchairs and their service dogs. In addition to training trips, the van is used to transport client teams to public locations and correctional facilities (where most puppies are trained), to pick up dog products, and to transport dogs to medical appointments.

ClayWorks & ArtWorks Project
Grantee – Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation

Grant Awarded – September 2018
Grant Amount – \$37,500

As part of the redevelopment of downtown Ware, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation launched the ArtWorks gallery and ClayWorks pottery studio to revitalize the area and create jobs and healthy activities. ArtWorks hosts shows and exhibits, and ClayWorks programs include daytime classes and workshops. The Foundation's funding supported the purchase of pottery wheels, signage, marketing, and initial staffing. The art spaces will continue to provide healthy community activities and contribute to the vibrancy of Main Street.

Women's Supportive Housing - Substance Use Disorders
Grantee – GAAMHA, Inc.

Grant Awarded – September 2017
Grant Amount – \$98,275

In June 2018, GAAMHA, Inc. opened a Supportive Housing Program for Women in Gardner that provides housing, a safe environment, and case management for women with substance use disorders. This grant funded renovations to the residential home and operating and program costs for the first year. Full occupancy occurred within 60 days of opening, with additional women being placed on a waitlist. 75% of the women who reside at the women's program have been referred by other providers of substance use services. A number of women were able to find employment shortly after residing in the home.

Clinical Stabilization Services Billing and Credentialing
Grantee – Veterans Inc.

Grant Awarded – September 2017
Grant Amount – \$55,800

Through this grant, Veterans Inc. successfully established a billing and credentialing office. The project improved and expedited verification of insurance coverage, billing to third party payers, and helped acquire health insurance for all uninsured clients. The new billing department will help to ensure the future sustainability of the organization's inpatient and outpatient treatment programs for Independence Hall, its substance abuse treatment facility for veterans (and non-veterans).