

\$75K Awarded to Organizations Supporting Diverse Start-Ups and Nonprofits



Pictured above are members of the Winter 2020 cohort of the EparaTodos program in Lawrence, MA
Photo credit: *Telegram & Gazette*

As an extension of the Foundation's [commitment to health equity](#) the Board recently awarded two grants totaling \$75,000 to organizations providing technical assistance, mentorship and specialized training to nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, principally those led by people from historically marginalized populations, in Central Massachusetts. These grants were made in recognition of the valuable role these nonprofits are playing in making the Greater Worcester community a more equitable and inclusive place to work.

As reported in a recent [Telegram & Gazette article](#), Entrepreneurship for All ([EforAll](#)), a nonprofit whose mission is to accelerate economic and social impact in the communities it serves through inclusive entrepreneurship, received a \$50,000 grant to help expand programming in its Greater Worcester chapter to support more underrepresented entrepreneurs in Central Massachusetts, including the Fitchburg and Leominster communities. Now operating in eight locations throughout Massachusetts, the Greater Worcester site launched virtually in September 2020. Its core program is a year-long Business Accelerator featuring intensive business training, mentorship, and access to an extended professional support network. The article features perspective from EforAll graduate Pooja Vishal on the value of the program in helping to launch her Indian meal kit business, Namaste Woo, which rents kitchen space from the Worcester Regional Food

Hub, one of the Foundation's Round 4 Synergy Initiative projects. Grant funds will help support the launch of a Spanish version of the program, EparaTodos, later this year. Applications for its Summer 2022 Business Accelerator Program are now open until Thursday, May 12, 2022, and can be accessed via the website linked above.

The [Organization for Nonprofit Excellence](#) (ONE) Worcester, which provides pro bono consulting to Worcester-area nonprofits, received a \$25,000 grant from the Foundation to support its efforts to build the capacity of small and growing nonprofits in the Greater Worcester area. Formerly known as Jericho Road, ONE Worcester has served over 90 nonprofit organizations since 2009, providing pro bono consulting in the areas of marketing, fundraising, strategic planning, DEI, and governance. Examples of past clients include Abby's House, Apple Tree Arts, and the LGBT Asylum Taskforce. The organization is actively seeking nonprofit partners in need of pro bono consulting and DEI assessment. More information is available on the website linked above.

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