



December 5, 2023

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts awarded 10 grants totaling \$1,063,451 through its Activation Fund program. The 2023 recipients represent a diverse mix of organizations located throughout the region, five of which are receiving Activation Fund grants for the first time.

The grant awards are as follows:

- **Abby's House**—for accessibility-related renovations to its overnight shelter for homeless women and children in Worcester, Massachusetts and expanding its capacity from nine to 18 beds. (\$120,000)
- **Boston Area Gleaners**—for the purchase of a refrigerated truck to help facilitate the expansion of its farm crop gleaning, surplus food recovery, and distribution services into Worcester County, Massachusetts. (\$81,500)
- **Building Futures**—for purchase of furniture, appliances, and supplies to equip its 24-unit permanent supportive housing development in Worcester called “A Place to Live.” (\$105,213)
- **Camp Starfish**—to replace an unusable basketball court and tennis courts at its year-round campsite serving children and young adults from Central Massachusetts with emotional, behavioral, social, and learning challenges. (\$110,000)
- **Employment Options**—for commercial kitchen equipment to launch a new culinary workforce training program for individuals with mental illness participating in its Clubhouse program in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. (\$70,935)
- **GAAMHA**—for room furnishings and kitchen equipment to outfit a new 32-bed recovery home for women with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in Athol, Massachusetts. (\$130,000)
- **Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center**—for purchase and installation of an elevator to ensure ADA accessibility at its new 44-unit, affordable housing development for low-income veterans and their families in Winchendon, Massachusetts. (\$110,000)
- **Project Just Because**—for the purchase of a freezer trailer to increase its capacity to accept, store, and distribute donations of protein, dairy products, and fresh produce to support food-insecure individuals and families and other local food pantries. (\$120,000)
- **Regional Environmental Council**—for warehouse renovations to increase the capacity of its Mobile Farmers Market program, connecting food-insecure residents of Worcester, Southbridge, and Webster, Massachusetts with healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant produce. (\$95,400)
- **Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA**—for purchase and installation of equipment to create an indoor hydroponic mushroom farm at the agency's headquarters and build the capacity of its Food Security program that caters to the cultural needs of clients. (\$120,403)