

FY2026

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

CAREER READINESS & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
College Affordable	NCM Regional Expansion	A 5-year commitment for a phased expansion of a free financial aid support system for high school students and families across North Central Massachusetts.	\$100,000/yr for 5 years
Habitat for Humanity, No. Central MA*	Classroom to Community Shed Project	Partnership with Monty Tech to design and build a shed for a homeowner.	\$3,000
Snowy Phoenix*	Career Readiness Initiative	Career readiness training for formerly incarcerated individuals.	\$3,000

* Funding provided through the new Career Readiness & Educational Access Community Momentum Micro Grant Program

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
Ashby Free Public Library Fund	Art in Three Dimensions	Expanding creative opportunities through programs that explore sculpture and 3D art for all ages.	\$3,200
Fitchburg Access Television (FATV)	North Central News (NCN)	Producing hyperlocal news and storytelling across multiple platforms to increase news access and create opportunities for student journalists.	\$10,000
Fitchburg Art Museum	FAM After School and Summer Camp Programs	Partnering with Fitchburg Public Schools to provide creative learning experiences that build confidence and artistic skills.	\$10,000
Friends of Prescott, Inc.	General Operating Support for Prescott Community Center	Ensuring that this vital community hub continues to offer educational, cultural, and wellness programs for residents of all ages.	\$10,000
Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse	Community Arts and Conversations	Hosting arts programming that encourages dialogue and creativity in the restored historic gathering place.	\$10,000
Groton Hill Music Center	Community-Based Music Education	Expanding access to high-quality music instruction for students in Fitchburg, Leominster, and Gardner.	\$10,000

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
Health Equity Partnership of North Central MA (CHNA9)	Youth Advisory Council	Empowering young people to take an active role in promoting health and equity within their communities.	\$8,000
Literacy Volunteers of the Montachusett Area	Literacy for Civic Empowerment	Helping adults build literacy and language skills that open doors to greater community involvement and opportunity.	\$5,000
Mount Wachusett Community College Foundation, Inc.	Engaging the Next Generation of Civic Leaders	Supporting programs that inspire students and community members to become active, informed participants in civic life.	\$11,583
NewVue Communities	Civic Engagement in North Central MA	Strengthening local democracy through leadership development and civic participation initiatives.	\$8,000
Petersham Memorial Library	Library Renovation Project	Preserving a beloved community space to ensure continued access to learning, resources, and connection.	\$5,000
The Salvation Army Athol Corps	Youth Arts Out-of-School Time Programming	Providing safe, creative spaces where young people can explore art and music, learn new skills, and build confidence.	\$5,000
Townsend Ecumenical Outreach, Inc.	Hands Together: Building the Next Generation of Volunteers	Launching a volunteer engagement program to combat the national trend of low volunteerism.	\$3,500
Winchendon Parks and Recreation	Winchendon Connects: Inclusive Arts & Culture Series at the Parks (Season 2)	Bringing the community together through free, family-friendly arts and cultural events in local parks.	\$10,000

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
Athol Animal Control	Fencing Upgrades	Vital fencing upgrades that improve safety and care conditions for animals housed at the facility.	\$7,875
Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee	Educational Resources for Bare Hill Pond	Developing educational resources that empower residents to better understand and protect the long-term health of Bare Hill Pond.	\$4,490
Massachusetts Praying Indian Land Trust (MPILT)	Cultural and Educational Stewardship Site	Establishing a cultural and educational site focused on training tribal and community members in stewardship of waterways, woodlands, ecosystems, and sensitive archaeological sites.	\$10,000
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities	Resources for Stray and At-Risk Animals	Providing critical resources for stray and at-risk animals throughout North Central Massachusetts.	\$5,000
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust	Save Camp Selah Partnership	An effort to permanently protect a treasured summer camp operated by the Athol YMCA, where children build confidence outdoors, form lasting friendships, and spend full summer days in a safe, structured environment.	\$20,000

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
North County Land Trust, Inc.	<i>October Farm Preservation</i>	Preserving October Farm, a historic property featuring productive farmland, biodiverse forests and wetlands, and iconic views of Mount Wachusett.	\$10,000
Second Chance Animal Services	<i>Mobile Pet Vaccine Clinics</i>	Expanding mobile pet vaccine clinics, bringing low-cost and no-cost veterinary services directly to families across the region.	\$14,025
Seeds of Solidarity	<i>Native Plant Nursery Project</i>	Supporting a native plant nursery project that grows and distributes native plants to restore local ecosystems and build long-term ecological resilience.	\$3,000
The Trustees of Reservations	<i>Rock Parcel Conservation Project</i>	Securing permanent protection for a 70-acre parcel in Erving, which will serve as critical access to Farley Ledges, a popular hiking and rock-climbing destination located at Northfield Mountain.	\$10,000

NASHOBA VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
Advocates, Inc.	<i>Mental Health and Substance Use Services for Older Adults</i>	Ensuring access to mental health and substance use services for uninsured or underinsured Medicare recipients aged 65 or older.	\$11,000
Conversations to Remember	<i>Combating Social Isolation: Intergenerational Connections for Nashoba Valley Older Adults</i>	Connecting older adults with college students for meaningful intergenerational conversations to reduce social isolation and support well-being.	\$10,225
Joe Andruzzi Foundation	<i>Assistance Programs for Nashoba Valley Cancer Patients and Their Family Members</i>	Providing assistance programs for Nashoba Valley cancer patients and their family members to remove financial barriers to care by supporting essential needs like housing, food, and transportation.	\$12,000
LUK Crisis Center, Inc.	<i>Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention Trainings</i>	Offering mental health awareness and suicide prevention trainings for the Nashoba Valley community.	\$20,000
North Middlesex Regional School District	<i>Removing Barriers and Expanding Access to Behavioral Health Support for the NM Community</i>	Removing barriers and expanding access to behavioral health by establishing a school-based mental health center and providing professional staff development.	\$20,000
Rise Above Foundation, Inc.	<i>Positive Childhood Experiences for Youth in Foster Care</i>	Creating positive childhood experiences for youth in foster care by eliminating financial barriers.	\$10,000
Seven Hills ASPiRE!	<i>Seven Hills Pediatric Center Assistive Technology Library</i>	Supporting an assistive technology library for children and young adults with complex medical and developmental disabilities.	\$20,000
Spanish American Center, Inc.	<i>Domestic Violence Community-Based Support Services (Nashoba Valley Region)</i>	Providing community-based domestic violence support services in the Nashoba Valley region.	\$15,337
The CASA Project	<i>Shine the Light Program: Improving Behavioral Health</i>	Improving behavioral health supports for children in foster care who have been removed from their homes due to parental substance abuse or mental health issues.	\$20,000

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
	<i>Supports for Children in Foster Care</i>		
UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc.	<i>A State-of-the-Art EKG Machine for the New Satellite Emergency Facility</i>	Supporting the purchase of two state-of-the-art EKG machines for the new satellite emergency facility on Groton.	\$22,000
Veteran Pathways (formerly Clear Path)	<i>Mental Health Resilience Initiative for Nashoba Valley Veterans</i>	Supporting low-barrier mental health resilience for Nashoba Valley veterans.	\$20,000
Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, Inc.	<i>Nashoba Valley Cancer Behavioral Health Program</i>	Providing behavioral health support for Nashoba Valley cancer patients.	\$20,000

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
4 Others Inc.	<i>Mobile Washing Machines</i>	Purchase mobile washing machines, a practical but powerful resource for individuals experiencing housing instability who need basic necessities to maintain dignity and stability in their lives.	\$2,464
Ashby Free Public Library	<i>Strategic Planning and Capacity Building</i>	Invest in strategic planning, community collaboration, communications, and organizational development to build capacity for its next chapter and position the library to grow its programs and services for years to come.	\$5,000
Athol Area YMCA	<i>Safety and Child-Protection Infrastructure Upgrades</i>	Invest in safe access and child-protection infrastructure upgrades, enhancing safety for the young people and families who rely on the Y every day.	\$10,000
Fitchburg Public Schools	<i>Afterschool Registration and Data Management Modernization</i>	Modernize its afterschool registration system and data management infrastructure, streamlining the processes that help students and families access out-of-school programming.	\$7,000
Franklin County Community Meals Program	<i>Orange Food Pantry Mini-Splits</i>	Install mini-splits at the Orange Food Pantry to create a safer, more comfortable environment for volunteers and clients alike year-round.	\$5,000
Gardner Community Action Committee, Inc.	<i>Marketing and Volunteer Training</i>	Expand community engagement and involvement by improving marketing and volunteer training.	\$8,270
Harvard's Cultural Collaborative, Inc.	<i>Exhibit Space Lighting Upgrades</i>	Upgrade lighting in its exhibit spaces, creating a more vibrant and welcoming environment for community arts and cultural programming.	\$5,000
North Central Mass Farmers Markets	<i>Operations and SNAP Accessibility Improvements</i>	Improve operations and expand SNAP accessibility, ensuring that fresh, local food is within reach for more families, regardless of income.	\$1,750
Pepperell Aid From Community To Home Outreach (PACH)	<i>Food Pantry Entryway Improvements</i>	Enhance its food pantry's facility by replacing and improving its entryway, allowing the organization to maintain safe access for neighbors facing food insecurity.	\$5,525

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Sterling Arts Collaborative	<i>Community Art Display Boards</i>	Install community art display boards, creating new public spaces for local artists and bringing creativity into everyday community life.	\$2,859
The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc.	<i>ADA-Compliant First-Floor Restroom</i>	Construct an ADA-compliant first-floor restroom, taking a meaningful step toward making its historic spaces accessible and welcoming to all visitors.	\$8,500
Townsend Ecumenical Outreach Inc.	<i>Governance and Operational Development</i>	Strengthen governance and operational development, building the organizational backbone that supports its vital outreach work.	\$5,700
United Way of Tri-County	<i>WHEAT Community Connections Equipment</i>	Advance its WHEAT Community Connections initiative by purchasing essential equipment that directly supports daily pantry and café operations.	\$4,382

RACIAL EQUITY

Organization	Project / Program	Description	Award Amount
Friends of Fitchburg Abolitionist Park	<i>Becoming our Own Entity</i>	Hiring full-time staff to expand programming and secure 501c3 status.	\$10,000
Leominster High School	<i>Celebrating the Success of Women of Color Speaker Series</i>	Continuing support for the student-led initiative that inspires young women by showcasing the achievements of diverse female leaders.	\$7,500