

2023 Community Responsive Grants Projects

Health Equity Alliance (HEAL)

Project Title: Sexual Health and Wellness Center

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Grant Type: 2-Year Implementation Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

Project Description: These funds will support the launch of Health Equity Alliance's Sexual Health and Wellness Center to provide stigma-free full-continuum sexual health, wellness, and prevention care. The Center will provide Hepatitis-C, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Illness prevention, screening, testing, diagnosis, and treatment. By the end of the grant period, HEAL's sustainable Sexual Health and Wellness Center will improve quality, availability, and accessibility of sexual health and wellness services for high-risk populations.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): People who use drugs, the LGBTQ+ community, and anyone at high risk of contracting HIV, Hep-C or other STI's, centering populations encountering cross-sectional inequities, systemic injustice, and barriers accessing medical care.

Geographic Focus: Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington Counties

Mindbridge

Project Title: Healing Racial Trauma Initiative (HRTI)

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Grant Type: 2-Year Implementation Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

Project Description: The grant funds will support both the rollout of a therapeutic pilot series and educational resources necessary to increase access to multi-cultural and racial trauma-informed mental health programming and practices for marginalized People of Color (POC) communities in Maine. By the end of the grant period, this project will have established regular therapeutic programming and educational services that care for the mental health needs of POC in Maine.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): People of Color in the state of Maine.

Geographic Focus: Statewide

2023 Community Responsive Grants Projects

Maine Transgender Network

Project Title: Transgender Mental Health Program

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Grant Type: 2-Year Implementation Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

Project Description: The grant funds will support the development of a clinical behavioral health practice serving transgender Mainers. It will support the development necessary for agency licensing as a clinical behavioral health agency, along with its start-up costs, and work to build a sustainable practice. By the end of the grant period this project will have launched the first stage of a clinical behavioral health program for transgender Mainers.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): Transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse Mainers specifically, their loved ones, providers, and LGBTQ+ people more broadly.

Geographic Focus: Statewide with an initial emphasis on rural communities.

New England Arab American Organization (NEAAO)

Project Title: Kindred Hearts

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Grant Type: 2-Year Implementation Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

Project Description: The grant funds will support the development of a culturally sensitive parenting curriculum, and delivery of parenting workshops, resources, and peer support networks. By the end of the grant, parents will have essential information and strategies that enable them to parent with greater confidence and less stress. Through this project, NEAAO will empower New Mainers to improve family dynamics for overall well-being, and to create a nurturing environment for their children. This will build resiliency.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): Arab and Muslim parents from the Middle East, Northern Africa and Afghanistan, and their children.

Geographic Focus: Statewide; Cumberland, Kennebec, York Counties

2023 Community Responsive Grants Projects

Quality Housing Coalition (QHC)

Project Title: Project HOME Health

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Grant Type: 2-Year Implementation Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

Project Description: The grant funds will support trauma-informed and culturally-tailored home visits and connections to resources. The project improves health and well-being for women living in poverty by making sure their unmet needs are addressed and providing social/mental/moral support through a continuous mutual relationship. By the end of the grant period, participants will feel more supported, less stressed, and report improved well-being for themselves and their families.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): Women and female-identifying people in permanent housing with QHC after a period of homelessness. The majority are low-income single mothers with a history of trauma, poverty, substance use disorder, and interpersonal violence, including 65% asylum-seekers and 15% who have experienced the foster care system.

Geographic Focus: Cumberland, York Counties

Rangeley Health and Wellness Partnership

Project Title: Community-Led Project to Increase Access to Healthcare and Social Determinants of Health Resources

Grant Amount: \$30,000

Grant Type: Planning Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024

Project Description: Grant funds will support planning activities to increase equitable access to healthcare and resources related to social determinants of health for low-income older individuals in the very rural northern tier of Franklin County. A community-led workgroup will develop an action plan for systems change to improve equitable access to healthcare and health resources, including increasing access to medicine in the absence of a pharmacy in the region.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): Low-income older individuals in the Rangeley Lakes Region who face disproportionate barriers to health, access to health care services, and resources related to social determinants of health.

Geographic Focus: Franklin County

2023 Community Responsive Grants Projects

Somali Bantu Community Association (SBCA)

Project Title: Family and Youth Resources Coordinator Position

Grant Amount: \$74,664

Grant Type: 2-Year Implementation Grant

Grant Period: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

Project Description: The grant funds will support SBCA's Community Advocacy team's work with families, youth, and service providers to facilitate deeper understanding of available mental health, substance use disorder, and special education services. By the end of the grant period this project will increase the accessibility of resources to Somali Bantu people and decrease community stigma of mental health challenges, substance use, and disability.

Community(ies) of Focus (CoF): The Somali Bantu community of central Maine.

Geographic Focus: Androscoggin County