



Examples of Successful Activation Fund Projects - January 2020

The Health Foundation's Activation Fund can be considered a kind of venture capital fund to support discrete projects designed to achieve specific outcomes that:

- develop creative and innovative approaches to alleviate community health concerns;
- move a community organization to the next level of capacity and effectiveness;
- enable partnerships of organizations to address health issues with new strategies; and/or
- explore emerging health challenges and opportunities.

In general, these grants are limited to a 12-month duration (October-September). Grants have ranged from approximately \$10,000 to \$100,000. In 2019, the average grant was around \$72,000.

The Foundation's goal is that all projects started with an Activation Fund grant 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.

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 their clients and service dogs. NEADS' trainers use the van for client training with people using manual chairs, power chairs, 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 who use wheelchairs and their service dogs. In addition to training trips, the van is used to transport client teams to public locations, correctional facilities, and to pick up dog products and 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 allowed for 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 3rd 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).

Students for Higher: Rising Up for Autism
Grantee – HMEA

Grant Awarded – September 2015
Grant Amount – \$56,700

HMEA successfully increased the number of staff providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and respite care for children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. College students participating in the program are exposed to relevant work experience that will help them secure a job in this field after graduation. The project is financially self-sustaining as the Project Director, who recruits the Students, performs some direct service hours that partly covers the salary. The salary balance and other costs (training/supervision) are sustainable through multiple insurers. Partnerships have resulted in the development of a B.C.B.A. program at Assumption, internships with other colleges, participation in HMEA's Autism Summit at Holy Cross, and research projects.

Storefront Renewal Project
Grantee – Worcester Community Housing Resources

Grant Awarded – September 2015
Grant Amount – \$85,000

Worcester Community Housing Resources (WCHR) renovated an empty storefront on Main Street in Worcester and is leasing the space to the Urban Missioner Program of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts to run a community outreach center. The income from the space is helping to stabilize the finances of two rooming houses operated by WCHR. The new programming serves residents of the rooming houses and other families housed in WCHR apartments, as well as the Main South neighborhood.

ReStore Donations Project
Grantee – Habitat for Humanity, MetroWest/Greater Worcester

Grant Awarded – September 2013
Grant Amount – \$40,000

With this grant, Habitat for Humanity, MetroWest/Greater Worcester purchased a 22-foot box truck to serve as their primary donation pick up vehicle. This larger truck has allowed for more pickups/larger pickups which in 2015 increased revenue for ReStore 23% over the previous year. The increase in donation pickups has resulted in reduced costs and man hours for return trips to unload between pickups. The new truck has also led to increased morale of the staff and volunteers.

School-Based Behavioral Health Clinic
Grantee – Family Continuity

Grant Awarded – September 2013
Grant Amount – \$38,720

This grant made it possible for Family Continuity to provide clinical support at the Northbridge and Uxbridge high schools. The program is sustained through third party reimbursement and has been duplicated in three additional school districts. Northbridge now has a clinician on site three and one-half days a week and Uxbridge has someone three full days each week. The schools have seen a decrease in visits to the school nurse for behavioral health issues resulting in students spending more time in the classroom. This project also has a child psychiatrist at each school once a month which has helped to improve access to psychiatric services.

Additional grant summaries can be found on the Foundation's website at www.hfcm.org