



**Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts  
Partners for the Pioneer Valley  
Competitive Grant Awards November, 2007**

In the third cycle 2007, the Competitive Grant Program awarded \$906,100 for 89 projects serving Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties. The awards represent 49% of the total dollar amount requested. Community Foundation competitive grant funding may be directed to specific counties based on the availability of funds. If you are interested in any of these projects, please contact the Grants staff at 413-732-2858.

<b>ARTS AND CULTURE</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Amandla, Inc.</b> Chorus Workshop Program for Prisoners: To offer 350 inmates at the Franklin County House of Correction in Greenfield a 6-8 week music workshop.	\$3,000			√
<b>Commonwealth Opera Inc.</b> Brundibar: A Tribute to the Human Spirit: To stage 4 public performances, 2 at Elms College and 2 at Amherst college, in March 2008, of the children's opera Brundibar which was performed by interned children at the Nazi concentration camp Theresienstadt during WWII.	\$6,000	√	√	√
<b>Double Edge Theatre Productions, Inc.</b> Summer Audience Accommodations: To purchase indoor seating and construct outdoor seating at Ashfield organization allowing the organization to increase audience members from 70 to 120 per show. Indoor seating will consist of 3 to 5 tiered risers as well as rows of wooden chairs with attached backs.	\$3,500			√
<b>Drama Studio, Inc.</b> The Greenroom Project: To provide 15-20 free events at Springfield organization on Saturday nights for 1,000 artistic area youth. Events will include open mike nights, debates, puppet slams, discussions, poetry slams, improv nights, and performances by visiting teen companies.	\$5,000	√		
<b>Enchanted Circle, Inc.</b> From Page to Stage for Holyoke Kindergarten: To bring reading alive for 140 Holyoke kindergarten students through a theater arts residency based on an Eric Carle book.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Friends of Amherst Recreation, Inc.</b> Theater Access Program: To make live theater available to 2,000 Pioneer Valley residents by providing steeply discounted tickets to performances of The Music Man in January 2008 at UMASS Bowker Auditorium. 1300 theatergoers will be able to take advantage of 2 discounted performances and another 700 free tickets will be distributed to human service agencies and schools.	\$4,000	√	√	√
<b>Jelupa Productions Inc.</b> Youth-Acting/Theater Classes: To provide two 8-week acting/theater classes to Springfield youth ages 12-18. The classes will be held twice weekly for 1.5 hours and will culminate with a 2008 Black History Month live theatrical presentation.	\$4,800	√		
<b>Miniature Theatre of Chester, Inc.</b> Gateway Acting Company: To offer middle and high school students access to theater education. Random Acts, a play which examines the potentially disastrous effects of hazing will provide a post-performance discussion. The program also offers students the opportunity to write a play and have it produced.	\$4,000	√	√	

<b>ARTS AND CULTURE</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.</b> Inspiring Children and Youth Through Live Symphonic Music: To hold a concert on May 17, 2008 in Greenfield for 600 patrons. This concert will be the final concert of a season-long series of events geared towards expanding young people's interest and passion for live orchestral music.	\$2,000		√	√
<b>Springfield Jewish Community Center, Inc.</b> Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival: To hold the 2008 Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival from March 22 - April 13 at sites in Springfield, W. Springfield, Chicopee, South Hadley, Northampton, Amherst, Shelburne Falls, and Greenfield. Films explore issues of cultural and multi-ethnic dialogue, and encourage tolerance and inclusion and will be viewed by over 3,000 individuals	\$5,000	√	√	
<b>Springfield Performing Arts Development Corp.</b> Fundraising Software: To purchase Raiser's Edge fundraising software for organization which provides live theatrical productions to over 50,000 patrons yearly. The computer program will allow the organization to increase the efficiency of services, optimize use of volunteers, assist patrons and constituents, improve internal processing, and execute a successful Annual Fund Campaign.	\$12,000	√		
<b>Springfield School Volunteers, Inc.</b> Arts in the Morning: To continue to offer a before school arts program to 40 children in grades 3 through 5 who attend the Kensington Avenue School in Springfield. The program runs 2 mornings a week for most of the school year but prior to school performances the group will meet up to 4 mornings per week. Students are also exposed to arts in the community through weekend field trips to local establishments; the year culminates with a bus trip to see a show in New York City.	\$6,000	√		
<b>Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, Inc.</b> Fire Sprinkler System: To install a fire sprinkler system in a renovated 18-room Chicopee rectory which will become the home of the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning once it passes State Building Code regulations. The center will house Polish artifacts and provide programs to educate the public about the many contributions Polish people and their descendents have made to America.	\$10,000	√		
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Artspace Community Arts Center</b> The Green River Connection: To educate 250 4th and 5th grade students attending the Greenfield Middle School and the Newton Elementary School about the importance of caring for our water resources by educating them with the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program.	\$3,900			√
<b>Athena Educational Resources</b> Celebration of Ancient Greece: To educate 240 7th grade students attending JFK Middle School in Northampton about ancient Greek mythology, history, and culture. Students will learn through integrated programs using, stories, art, music, dance, drama, technology and research.	\$1,000		√	
<b>Community Education Project, Inc.</b> ABE-to-College Transition Program: To provide a year of free comprehensive services, support, and academic coursework at Holyoke Community College for 30 high level non-native English speakers and graduates of the ABE system who are academically or otherwise under prepared for college success. This collaborative between the Community Education Project of Holyoke and Holyoke Community College targets low income Latinos with barriers to college.	\$10,000	√		

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Community United Way of Pioneer Valley, Inc.</b> Step Up Springfield: To strengthen the ability of 10 Springfield community-based organizations to understand student academic data and then implement effective tools/programs that correspond to the data. Through 7 months of training, staff from the 10 organizations will learn to request and use data from schools; adjust youth activities or programs to target where students need help; receive training on how to deliver effective learning activities; and provide 3-4 parent outreach workshops.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Friends of the Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence</b> MLK Community Center - CHD Partnership for Student and Family Support: To provide support services aimed at achieving positive academic outcomes to up to 30 students and their families attending the Martin Luther King Charter School in Springfield. Three graduate social work students from Springfield College, Cambridge College and the University of Connecticut will be placed at the MLK Community Center, Center for Human Development and at the MLK Charter School.	\$16,900	√		
<b>Northfield Mount Hermon School</b> Upward Bound Hampden County Expansion Initiative: To provide 30 low-income 9th grade students from Renaissance School and Holyoke High School with additional academic support so they will become strong students and identify as scholars.	\$18,000	√		
<b>Open Field Foundation Bramble Hill Farm</b> Fertile Ground: To continue to utilize gardening to bring together students and explore the different cultures of students from Williamsburg and Holyoke. In 2008 the program will be expanded to include the Williamsburg Middle School and 3 Holyoke schools; include a guest speaker program; work with local organizations and farmers to educate children and youth about healthy eating.	\$7,500	√	√	
<b>Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc.</b> CAN DO: To support the creation of a business case for Pioneer Valley collaborative seeking to address the region's critical nursing workforce shortage. Funded in part through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a partnership between education, health care, workforce development and local foundations is planning a process to streamline the Pioneer Valley's nursing education system. In 2006-2007, over 700 students were enrolled in degree nursing programs but over 300 qualified applicants were turned away due to lack of capacity in our area schools. A business case will help the collaborative pursue funding sources and take on a leadership role at the state level.	\$15,000	√		
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Center for Ecological Technology, Inc.</b> ReStore Expansion: To raise funds towards a \$1.6 million capital campaign permitting the organization to purchase a 30,000 square foot building in Springfield to serve more low to moderate income do-it-yourself homeowners. The new space will allow them to operate more efficiently, offer adequate parking, have classroom space, provide customers with "green" demonstration features, install a shop for deconstruction services, and implement a computerized inventory system.	\$30,000	√		
<b>Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, Inc.</b> Capacity Building for Leadership: To build the capacity of this organization which provides Pioneer Valley farmers with the necessary tools to sustain and enhance their farms and residents with information on our local food supply. This 3-pronged project will allow the organization to explore their role in the local economy and see how it can be expanded; provide staff trainings; and upgrade marketing tools.	\$4,000	√	√	√

<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc.</b> Dougal Range Conservation Initiative: To work in phases to conserve the 2,000 acre block of land on the Dougal Range in Hardwick and Ware. This first phase seeks to conserve 510 acres owned by 8 landowners committed to conserving their fields, woods and streams. Conserving this land provides the 10,000 residents of the area with recreation space, clean water and air, jobs working on actively managed farms and forests, and scenic areas that enhance the quality of life.	\$7,500		√	
<b>Hitchcock Center, Inc.</b> Fundraising Feasibility Study for Green Building Project: To complete study for Hampshire County organization which provides environmental and science education to 7,000 children, teachers and adults each year. The study will assist the organization in determining if they are ready to raise between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million to expand their building.	\$6,000		√	
<b>Kestrel Trust</b> Great Meadow-Walther Wanczyk APR: To permanently protect a 26-acre parcel of historical agricultural land in Hadley which has frontage on the Connecticut River.	\$9,000		√	
<b>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>American National Red Cross, Hampshire-Franklin County Chapter</b> Inclusion of Franklin County into Hampshire County Chapter: To provide 6-months of operating support for Hampshire County organization as it to integrates Franklin County into its operations.	\$8,500			√
<b>American National Red Cross, Pioneer Valley Chapter</b> First Responder Training: To replace aging and worn equipment used to annually train over 250 Hampden County residents and fire fighters in First Responder techniques.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Arc Massachusetts</b> Health Care Project: To conduct 2 focus groups, phone interviews and on-line surveys to improve health care access for the estimated 18,000 Pioneer Valley residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The project will survey families, consumers, developmental disability providers and health care providers.	\$2,000	√	√	√
<b>Cancer Connection, Inc.</b> Integration of Support Consultants into Marketing/Development Personnel: To increase fundraising and marketing capacity by hiring a part-time coordinator who will oversee event planning and marketing for this organization which provides free support groups, relaxation therapies and programs in expressive arts and low-impact exercise classes primarily for Hampshire County residents with cancer and their families. Over 300 people will benefit from services in 2007.	\$2,000		√	
<b>Caring Health Center, Inc.</b> Healthy Life Program: To purchase physical fitness equipment to be used in combination fitness training and nutrition classes for 300 low income inactive Springfield children ages 10 to 18. Under the guidance of a nurse, two pediatricians, a certified nutritionist, an exercise science specialist, and a social worker/psychologist, parents and children will be educated and monitored to make sure healthy weight loss is happening.	\$7,000	√		

HEALTH AND NUTRITION	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
<b>Douglas A. Thom Clinic for Children, Inc.</b> Welcome Baby Gift Baskets: To provide 600 Springfield families with newborns a visit from a trained home visitor who will provide the family with a basket of items to support the healthy development of the newborns. At the time of the visit the family will participate in an interview aimed at screening for infant and family needs.	\$18,000	√		
<b>Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc.</b> Target Hunger Springfield: To support Year 2 of a 4-year initiative seeking to reduce the number of people experiencing hunger by 10% in the McKnight/Bay/Old Hill/Upper Hill neighborhoods through a community organizing research project that increases the capacity of community organizations, working individually and as a network.	\$8,000	√		
<b>Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc.</b> Food Changes Lives Nutrition Program: To hire a part-time licensed nutritionist to improve the nutritional value of foods distributed to elders through Brown Bag program; establish a nutritional rating system in warehouse to help member agencies select healthy food; and pilot a nutrition education workshop as part of Target Hunger Springfield.	\$7,500	√	√	√
<b>Friends of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Inc.</b> Rosie II Vital Signs Monitoring System: To purchase 11 Rosie II Automated Vital Signs Monitors with stands, data transfer software and bar code scanner for Veteran Care Center and the Outpatient Department at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke which provides long-term care for 285 veterans.	\$7,800	√		
<b>Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc.</b> Training Equipment: To purchase new training equipment to teach police officers, fire fighters, First Responders and EMTs who provide emergency medical response to the 8,000 residents of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg.	\$2,000		√	
<b>Hands-on Elders</b> Hands-on Elders: To provide a free walk-in massage/bodywork clinic for 400 elders and elder care givers at Northampton Council on Aging Wellness Center. Therapists will provide a weekly schedule of touch therapy services.	\$5,000		√	
<b>Massachusetts Citizens for Children, Inc.</b> Hampden County Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Initiative: To support a coalition of providers working to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome by educating maternity nurses, parents and caregivers.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Take and Eat, Inc.</b> Weekend Meals for Homebound Elders: To provide a weekend meal program to 900 homebound elders in Chicopee, Holyoke and Greenfield by recruiting volunteers from various faith-based communities to make and deliver the food.	\$5,000	√		√
<b>UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc.</b> Wing Hospital Capital Campaign for New Addition: To raise funds for a \$25 million capital campaign to build a 58,000 square foot addition to Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer. Addition includes 18 single occupancy patient rooms, 11 semi-private rooms, 3 segregated pediatric beds, 3 state-of-the-art operating rooms, a second endoscopy suite, and a new patient registration and entry area.	\$15,000	√		
<b>Opening Gaits Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.</b> Building Relationships Beyond the Classroom: To offer therapeutic horseback riding lessons to 24 at-risk Franklin County adolescent girls who have been diagnosed with mental challenges. The lessons will assist the girls in gaining new skills, strengthening sense of self and working with peers.	\$10,000			√

<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Domus Incorporated</b> Sanford Apartments: To furnish 15 studio and six 1-bedroom apartments in Sanford Whip Factory building in Westfield which is being renovated to provide housing for 21 individuals who are homeless, have a mental or physical disability, and are low-income. Each apartment will be furnished with a twin bed, sofa or chair, night stand with lamp, TV cart, kitchen table and chairs, as well as valances, rugs, and room accessories.	\$21,700	√		
<b>Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity</b> Chester Street House #2: To purchase construction materials to build a single family home in the Six Corners/Maple High section of Springfield, which will become the home for a low-income family.	\$6,500	√		
<b>HAP, Inc.</b> Vital Gateway for Housing Information: To transform this organization's website to better serve the 15,000 primarily low and moderate income residents of Hampden and Hampshire County seeking housing information. The enhanced website will allow individuals to sign up for workshops, apply for programs, view affordable homes for sale and apartments for rent, schedule appointments with staff, and schedule rental assistance inspections.	\$10,000	√	√	
<b>Hilltown Community Development Corporation</b> Laurel Road Affordable Housing Project: To install photo voltaic solar panels to 11 new affordable homes for low-income first-time homebuyers in Haydenville. The homes will meet high energy efficiency standards and therefore will be less expensive for the homeowners to maintain.	\$5,400		√	
<b>Nueva Esperanza, Inc.</b> 2006 and 2007 Audits: To cover the costs of audits for years 2006 and 2007 for Holyoke organization which develops and maintains affordable housing, youth programming, promotes minority business development, and provides leadership and training opportunities for the community. Organization has undergone some restructuring and paying for the audits will help them with future planning and sustainability.	\$35,000	√		
<b>Providence Ministries for the Needy, Inc.</b> Broderick House Roof Project: To replace the 110+ year old decaying roof on the Broderick House in Holyoke to prevent further damage to building interior and the foundation. The Broderick House provides emergency transitional housing for up to 15 intact homeless families at one time.	\$25,000	√		
<b>Valley Community Development Corporation</b> Foreclosure Prevention & Counseling: To provide counseling to 40 Hampshire County homeowners who are facing foreclosure, mortgage delinquency, paying extraordinary high costs for their housing, or are unable to maintain their home and pay other bills due to high mortgage payments. The counseling services will help homeowners negotiate with lenders, receive advice and advocacy regarding issues homeowners should know about, and learn how to save for a down payment.	\$10,000		√	

<b>HUMAN SERVICES - GENERAL</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Arise, Inc.</b> Arise for Social Justice-Self Advocacy: To hire an advocate for 10-hours a week and pay a stipend to a bilingual member to translate information into Spanish for Springfield organization that assists low-income residents to educate themselves about community and social issues that impact their lives.	\$8,000	√		
<b>Association for Community Living, Inc.</b> Autism Special Education Project for Parents: To provide families of children with autism with additional resources to assist them in obtaining a better education for their children. Community Resources for People with Autism Division will video tape their <i>Autism Special Education Project for Parents</i> training series, produce the series on DVD, and create a loan program to allow parents to watch the DVDs at home. They will expand their web site to include additional resources and create a portable tool, a ring of laminated cards which highlight key points on the law that parents can take with them to school planning meetings.	\$13,300	√	√	√
<b>Carson Center for Human Services, Inc.</b> New Entryway Staircase and Furnace/AC Unit: To upgrade outdated HVAC system and install new entryway stairs at the Westfield location which serves 2,500 Hampden County residents a year who need mental health, substance abuse, and rehabilitation services.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Casa Latina, Inc.</b> Promoting Latino Civic Awareness: To increase civic participation in 100 Hampshire County Latinos by conducting outreach, focus groups and a series of meetings about the U.S. political system prior to the upcoming elections. The focus groups will help the organization to create the workshop series and a collective Latino Agenda on social and economic issues.	\$5,000		√	
<b>Center for Popular Economics, Inc.</b> Walaalo! Somali Sisters Collective: To support a multifaceted approach to community and economic development which directly benefits 10 Springfield Somali women refugees and their families. With the support of 5 Pioneer Valley organizations, the Somali women will be involved in 2 income-generating projects capitalizing on their culture and skills, farming and crafts.	\$6,000	√		
<b>Clinical and Support Options, Inc.</b> Outpatient Capacity Building and Programming Enhancements: To enhance 3 programs located at Greenfield site which serves Franklin County high-risk, low-income families and youth ages 17-23 who are transitioning out of DSS or DMH to independent living. The projects for the 3 programs include creation of a play family therapy room where parents will experience guided activities with their children to enhance their parenting skills; providing families with outings or tickets to events; and providing youth with tickets to events and recreation opportunities.	\$3,000			√
<b>Cooperative Fund of New England</b> The Western Massachusetts Cooperative Development Project: To provide 120 hours of technical assistance to 10 new and expanding cooperatives in the Pioneer Valley and then make loans to 4 of these cooperatives to help them move to the next step in their business plan.	\$10,000	√	√	√
<b>Enlace De Familias De Holyoke/Holyoke Family Network, Inc.</b> Fathers Breaking Barriers: To help 50 Holyoke men be better fathers by offering three 13-week curriculum-based training programs where the men will have the opportunity to create better parenting skills and learn to be more responsible for their actions.	\$40,000	√		

<b>HUMAN SERVICES - GENERAL</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Greenfield Community College Foundation, Inc.</b> Community Leadership of WMass Sustainability Plan: To hire a consultant to produce a business plan to ensure long-term sustainability for annual 10-month community leadership program for Hampshire and Franklin Counties. This leadership program is designed to expand the pool of effective leadership for nonprofits.	\$2,500		√	√
<b>Hampshire County Bar Association Foundation</b> For the Children: To continue to offer a 3-hour court mandated parent education program from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 to 240 never-married Hampshire County parents seeking custody and visitation decisions from the Probate and Family Court. This program will improve parent-to-parent communication and parent-child relationships through topics such as the challenges facing unmarried parents, and the importance of involvement of both parents in the lives of their children.	\$6,700		√	
<b>Jewish Geriatric Services, Inc.</b> ADA Compliant Mini-Bus: To purchase a new ADA compliant mini-bus with wheelchair/walker accessibility for Longmeadow organization which annually provides 14,300 elderly clients and residents with transportation to doctors appointments and community attractions.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Life's Choices-A Christian Youth Ministry, Inc.</b> Teen Living Program: To provide residential programming at Springfield organization for 6 at-risk Hampden County pregnant and/or parenting teens and up to 9 of their children in order for them to become self sufficient in their own apartments. Each teen receives an individual service plan of action to address her parenting, health and life skill needs and these plans are worked on daily.	\$8,000	√		
<b>Men's Resources International, Inc.</b> Engaging Men in Ending Violence and Promoting Positive Masculinity: To offer a 3-day professional development leadership training in Springfield for 30-50 Springfield and Holyoke men and women seeking to assist men in ending family and community violence.	\$7,500	√		
<b>National Conference For Community and Justice of CT &amp; W. MA, Inc.</b> Building a Better Springfield-A Community Wide Dialogue: To offer 5-week small group discussions on poverty and race led by a trained facilitator.	\$3,000	√		
<b>Northampton Survival Center, Inc.</b> Client Needs Assessment: To conduct a comprehensive client needs assessment for Northampton organization which provides emergency food, household items and referral service to low-income residents from 16 Hampshire County communities.	\$13,500		√	
<b>Quabbin Mediation, Inc.</b> Veterans Mediation Project: To provide 15 veterans with 30-hours of basic mediation training to assist Pioneer Valley residents who have served in active duty, the National Guard, Reserves and their families. Veterans have much higher rates of conflict at home, at work, with neighbors, and in housing arrangements and are more likely to seek help in resolving conflicts from fellow veterans who understand their life experiences.	\$5,000	√	√	√
<b>Safe Passage, Inc.</b> Volunteer Coordinator: To support the Volunteer Coordinator position at this organization which works to end domestic violence and oppression in women's lives. Volunteers answer 2,000 hotline calls a year, work with families that live in the shelter, and provide childcare and support for many of the women and children accessing the organization's counseling services.	\$12,500		√	

<b>HUMAN SERVICES - GENERAL</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Springfield V.A.C.A., Inc.</b> Family Empowerment Program: To provide 100 Springfield Vietnamese residents with culturally sensitive programming to help youth to improve academically and socially and for parents to become more involved in their children's education. This 3-pronged program provides after school academic support to elementary and middle school youth during the school-year and cultural enrichment programs during the school-year and during the summer. Through case management and educational advocacy 30 parents will receive the necessary support in order to be the best parent they can be and to advocate for their child's academic needs.	\$20,000	√		
<b>United Church of Bernardston</b> Parking Lot Repavement: To assist in repaving 17, 338 square feet of parking lot at this church in Bernardston. This church is a hub of community activity and is used by numerous community groups and organizations on a regular basis.	\$5,000			√
<b>Urban League of Springfield, Inc.</b> Parent Empowerment Zone Start Up: To provide families from the Mason Square community in Springfield, especially the 300 families of DeBerry Elementary School and the 525 families of New Leadership Charter School, with parenting information and direct services. The Zone will offer parents information and services in the following areas: Health and Wellness; Learning and Development; Financial Literacy; and Civic Engagement.	\$25,000	√		
<b>USAdoption Solutions, Inc.</b> Springfield Outreach and Training Program: To outreach and train 20 families and place between 20 to 40 special needs children from the foster care system into permanent families.	\$7,000	√		
<b>Valley Women's History Collaborative, Inc.</b> Mary Vazquez Softball League Oral History Project: To share the experience of players and coaches of the Mary Vazquez Softball League, an all women's league, through transcribed oral histories, a series of community forums, and an interactive website.	\$5,000	√	√	√
<b>Veterans Education Project, Incorporated</b> The Military Families and Veterans Connect Project, 2007-2008: To expand support groups and public forums to 600 Pioneer Valley residents to provide a sense of community for military families and veterans and educate the public on military family and deployment issues. Support groups will be run by a trained facilitator and provide military family members the opportunity to discuss their situations and find places they can turn to for services. Churches, synagogues, colleges and community venues will be sites for 10 community outreach events where veterans can speak about their war experiences.	\$2,000	√	√	√
<b>YMCA of Greater Springfield</b> Competitive Edge Upgrade: To purchase Raiser's Edge software to assist development staff in working more efficiently.	\$25,100	√		
<b>HUMAN SERVICES - CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Berkshire Project, Inc.</b> Hip Hop Remix Program: To provide a 16-week behavioral intervention utilizing hip-hop dance and group therapy for 40 at-risk Springfield and Holyoke girls, 12-17 years old, in the Department of Juvenile Probation. Groups facilitated by a professional dancer and a licensed counselor meet twice a week for 2 hours, for an initial 8-week program followed by another 8-week mentoring program.	\$5,000	√		

<b>HUMAN SERVICES - CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Best Buddies Massachusetts</b> Hampden County High School Project: To match 74 Westfield, West Springfield, Chicopee, Palmer and Springfield's Central high school students with disabilities with non-disabled high school peers to create one-to-one friendships. Each pair commits to 1 year of participation, during which they will spend time with their buddy at least twice every month, and stay in touch with them at least once every week.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, Inc.</b> Building Our Future - Phase II: To raise funds for a \$2 million capital campaign dedicated to renovating the original Meadow Street facility in Chicopee to provide youth with an enhanced program area. The renovations include converting the gym to a game room; adding a technology classroom, arts and crafts classroom, 2 small activity rooms; converting the locker room to a tween center, creating a new entrance, and adding new staff offices and storage which will be secure from the rest of the building.	\$50,000	√		
<b>Chicopee Child Development Center, Inc.</b> Chapel Roof: To replace the roof on the chapel building which is 1 of 3 buildings that comprises this child care program which provides care for 55 children who are primarily low income.	\$8,000	√		
<b>Clinical and Support Options, Inc.</b> Clean Slate Program Transportation: To purchase a used 15 passenger van to transport Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee youth ages 12-18, enrolled in the Clean Slate Program, from school to the Spectra Center and to their community services sites to fulfill their court mandates	\$10,000	√		
<b>Community Action of the Franklin Hampshire and North Quabbin Region</b> Community Action Youth Programs: To purchase a new van for Franklin County organization which offers programming for low-income marginalized, and at-risk youth ages 6-21 in Franklin and Hampshire Counties and North Quabbin. Three vans are needed to transport youth but 2 of the vans were taken off the road because they are beyond repair. In addition to canceling special activities, the remaining van and staff cars are being used to transport students until funding can be secured to purchase additional transportation.	\$21,000		√	√
<b>Dunbar Community Center, Inc.</b> Teen Academic Enrichment: To provide Springfield teens ages 13 -19 with field trips aimed at enhancing their academic experience. Field trip destinations include the libraries, museums, local college campuses, and the theater.	\$5,000	√		
<b>Hampshire Franklin Children's Day Care, Inc.</b> Facility Improvement Project: To improve the safety and effectiveness of both indoor and outdoor spaces at child care agency. Indoor improvements include installing echo eliminator panels, an accordion-style wall-mounted partition, and a fire alarm system. The outdoor improvements include constructing a retaining wall and replacing an old pressure-treated playground border	\$5,000		√	√
<b>Home for Little Wanderers</b> The Task Force on Youth Aging Out of DSS Care: To assist youth in DSS Care who are aging out of the system but do not have the necessary skills and experience to live on their own. Public forums will be hosted, educational training sessions will be implemented with state agencies, and legislators will be educated about the need for reform.	\$10,000	√	√	√

<b>HUMAN SERVICES - CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Friends of Children, Inc.</b> Adolescent Advocacy Mentoring Project: To recruit and train 12-15 new adult mentors who will be matched with 12-15 Pioneer Valley youth aging out of the child welfare system who do not have a family to support them. The mentors will help the foster youth develop important life skills and also advocate on behalf of the youth when services are denied or difficult to obtain.	\$7,500	√	√	
<b>Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts, Inc.</b> JA High School Heroes: To train 100 high school students in the JA Success Skills Program qualifying them to be volunteers who will then spend 1 day educating up to 1,000 Springfield and Wilbraham elementary school students about business, economics and free enterprise. Youth will be have the opportunity to develop leadership, speaking and management skills.	\$5,000	√		
<b>Mass Mentoring Partnership, Inc.</b> Western MA Mentoring Initiative: To support 18 mentoring programs in Western Massachusetts. In 2008 the organization plans to establish a Leadership Council, expand the training schedule, conduct outreach to college students, increase public awareness, and seek out other funding sources.	\$10,000	√	√	√
<b>Solid Rock Church of God in Christ, Inc.</b> STAR Program: To provide 25 Springfield Latino and African American youth with an after school and weekend program designed to prevent high-risk behaviors in middle and high school. Program utilizes the ALL STARS model designed to reinforce positive qualities characteristic of the age group.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Springfield Boys and Girls Club, Inc.</b> Homeless Education Program: To offer tutoring and recreation to 40 homeless children, ages 6-18, living in Springfield shelters. The children will become members of the Boys & Girls Club, establishing one area of stability in their chaotic lives. Program offers participants snacks and transportation.	\$7,000	√		
<b>Springfield Boys and Girls Club, Inc.</b> Roof Replacement Project: To replace the 5,750 square feet section of roof over the main hall and storage areas of Springfield organization which provides 2,800 Springfield youth with a safe place to learn and grow. This is the third and final area of roof identified by the organization to be replaced. The Club has been awarded a dollar for dollar challenge grant from the Amelia Peabody Foundation to complete this project.	\$17,000	√		
<b>Springfield College</b> LACES-A Program to Develop Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement: To provide 40 Springfield high school student-athletes with a comprehensive full year leadership training program. Program integrates the Springfield Leaders of Tomorrow program, a 2-week summer leadership program, with the Play it Smart program, an academic year mentor program for student athletes. Combining these programs will provide student athletes, from all 4 Springfield high schools, with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and assistance to address problems in the community by conducting a community service project.	\$25,000	√		
<b>World Affairs Council of Western Massachusetts, Inc.</b> Academic WorldQuest 2008: To hold the third annual Academic WorldQuest trivia competition at a Western New England College where 4 students from Springfield Public High Schools will answer world trivia questions. The winning team advances to a national contest hosted by the World Affairs Councils of America in Washington D.C. on April 5, 2008.	\$2,000	√		