



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

In the first cycle 2007, the Competitive Grant Program awarded \$502,500 for 57 projects serving Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties. The awards represent 36% 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.

ARTS AND CULTURE	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
<b>Amherst Community Arts Center</b> <i>Art for All</i> To offer pottery and sculpture classes for 18-24 children with cognitive and physical disabilities to improve their fine motor skills, communication, and self-esteem. Four "Tripp Trapp" chairs will be purchased to accommodate those with physical difficulties to sit at the table.	\$2,500		√	√
<b>Friends of the Wendell Free Library, Inc.</b> <i>Collection Development Project</i> To purchase and process new materials including adult fiction, young adult books, non-fiction books for children, and audio books for the library which serves the 1,000 town residents. The library is relocating from a 700 square foot space to a new 4,200 square foot state-of-the-art facility.	\$12,500			√
<b>Institute for the Musical Arts</b> <i>CAM - Youth Programming</i> To provide hands-on, educational, arts classes for 150 Franklin County children age 1-14 years. Classes will strengthen creative skills, build self-esteem, and cultivate imagination. "Earth day every day" approach fosters ecological awareness and art created from nature based and recycled materials.	\$2,000			√
<b>Live in Concert, Inc.</b> <i>Our American Cousin</i> To premiere this opera set in Ford's Theater on the night of Abraham Lincoln's Assassination at Northampton's Academy of Music theater. The story is told from the perspectives of those who were onstage and from that of President and Mrs. Lincoln as they watched from their box.	\$5,000	√	√	√
<b>Mohawk Trail Concerts, Inc.</b> <i>America's Arts</i> To produce "Simple Stories," poems written by U.S. Poet Laureate, Donald Hall, put to music by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and pianist William Bolcom at the Charlemont Federated Church. The two performances are part of the chamber music series and includes instrumentalists and Amherst's Da Camera Singers.	\$5,000		√	√
ARTS AND CULTURE	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County

<b>Multi-Arts, Inc.</b> <i>Conflict-Resolution Program</i> Two-hundred and forty children age 6-18 will participate in a 6-week summer performing and visual arts program, to write and then stage, for the public, three productions addressing issues faced in their daily lives. Topics will include peer pressure, family conflicts and cultural difference from a conflict resolution perspective.	\$1,500	√	√	√
<b>Northampton Community Music Center, Inc.</b> <i>Audio &amp; Visual Technology Project</i> To purchase audio and visual equipment including a power amplifier and cables, a digital projector, and a digital recorder and stand, and memory card for this organization which provides music instruction to 750 students. Community programming will include swing dances, movie screenings and rock and roll camp.	\$1,300		√	
<b>Springfield Council for Community and Cultural Affairs, Inc.</b> <i>The Hoop City Jazz &amp; Art Festival</i> To offer a free-of-charge citywide cultural event at Springfield's Riverfront Park on Saturday, July 7, 2007. Program includes music by world-class and local jazz musicians, art exhibit, international food court, vendor mall, community resource tent, a "live-Remote" radio broadcast and youth internship program.	\$2,000	√		
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Alzheimer's Disease &amp; Related Disorders Assoc., Inc. - MA Chapter</b> <i>A New Approach to Health Disparities in Alzheimer's Diagnosis and Care</i> 150 Springfield Latino and African-American adults ages 55 and over will learn about Alzheimer's disease including risk reduction, earlier recognition, treatment, medications, care planning, through a volunteer corps of retired health professionals working at senior centers and community health organizations.	\$10,000	√		
<b>American Lung Association of Massachusetts, Inc.</b> <i>Healthy Choices - Healthy Lungs</i> 2,000 students in grades 3-8 will learn about the respiratory system and the effects of tobacco on healthy lungs. Volunteer trainers utilize a unique computer program, April Age Progression Software, which takes a picture of the students and projects the effects of smoking on personal appearance up to age 72.	\$5,000	√	√	√
<b>American National Red Cross, Greater Westfield Chapter</b> <i>Telecommunications Upgrade</i> To purchase eight phone ports, installation of lines, replacement phones with voicemail capability, installation kits, fax servers, and battery back ups to provide a direct link to health, safety and 24-hour disaster services for the 56,000 residents of Blandford, Chester, Granville, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, Tolland, Westfield and Woronoco.	\$7,000	√		
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Cancer House of Hope, Inc.</b> <i>Reiki Therapy for Cancer Survivors</i> To provide 300 one-hour Reiki therapy sessions administered by a certified Reiki practitioner to people with cancer. This program helps to alleviate pain, anxiety, chemotherapy side effects, depression, increases energy, and induces relaxation.	\$2,500	√		

<b>Mont Marie Health Care Center, Inc.</b> <i>Parking Lot Entrance - New Elevator</i> To construct a new entryway, build a parking lot, and add an elevator at this center which serves 84 residents. This complex includes Mont Marie Health Care and the Sisters of St. Joseph and is accessed by one central elevator making meal delivery and patient mobility problematic when the lone dated elevator is not working.	\$20,000	√		
<b>Sisters of Providence Health Systems, Inc.</b> <i>Recreation Therapy Computer Lab at Weldon</i> To purchase seven computers and two printers for use in rehabilitation therapy with 200 patients recovering from strokes, orthopedic injuries or brain damage from injuries. Computers and internet access are used to access resources, for social support, and are job development tools for those entering or re-entering the workforce.	\$7,800	√		
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Anti-Displacement Project, Inc.</b> <i>130 Union Street Improvements - Phase 2</i> To renovate this site including construction of a handicap accessible entrance, repair/pointing of the exterior brick, a new store front, window replacement, and interior finishes. This organization serves low-income residents who seek affordable housing, food, work, including training to secure living wage jobs.	\$15,000	√		
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Greater Westfield, Inc.</b> <i>Community Technology Center</i> To staff and equip the computer lab to provide access and training to 220 technology disenfranchised Westfield area individuals. This free service will operate during the day for the elderly, single mothers, home-schooled children, new Americans and others.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Center for New Americans</b> <i>CNA Development Capacity Building Initiative</i> A recently completed strategic plan identified the need for a Development and Marketing coordinator to increase private financial support. This agency assists 500 immigrants annually is supported primarily by government grants which limits their ability to respond to emerging community needs.	\$7,000		√	√
<b>Child &amp; Family Service of Pioneer Valley, Inc.</b> <i>Enhanced Mental Health Services for Vietnamese Clients</i> To offer case management services to 25 Vietnamese clients who are receiving mental health services. The Vietnamese speaking clinician, is often presented with ancillary concerns, which do not fall within the traditional therapy model.	\$15,800	√		
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Franklin Community Action Corporation</b> <i>Fathers Count Too</i> To offer a 6-week group for teen fathers and their children ages three and younger, in the Healthy Families program. Dads will receive parenting resources including discussion, father child activity time, and the sharing of a meal with topics such as car seat and home safety; making a toy; visit to the fire station; etc.	\$1,000			√

<b>Franklin County DIAL/SELF, Inc.</b> <i>Action Through Community Network</i> To merge the Kimball Howes Volunteer Center (part of the United Way of Hampshire County) and DIAL/SELF's Franklin County Community Service Center to one site. It is anticipated that 250 volunteers will be recruited providing 15,000 hours of service and support for Volunteer Coordinators.	\$15,000		√	√
<b>Gray House, Inc.</b> <i>Food Pantry</i> To purchase food for 13,500 low-income North End Springfield residents. Recipients receive three days worth of food for the three meals plus snacks and can participate three times/year and at Thanksgiving. Many recipients also get clothing, hygiene products or household items from the Thrift Shop.	\$15,000	√		
<b>MAB Community Services, Inc.</b> <i>Visually Impaired Elders Program</i> To provide rehabilitation to 350 low-income elders at risk of losing their independence due to vision loss. Individuals learn adaptive living skills and receive home modifications through a case management model. This program reduces the need for costly, life-altering solutions such as institutionalized living.	\$2,500	√		
<b>Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children</b> <i>Family Support and Stabilization</i> To confront and prevent child abuse and neglect by providing parents and families with parent support and education: case management, clinical consultation, mental health treatment, and enhanced mental health treatment this array of services eliminates any gaps in care.	\$10,000	√		
<b>Open Pantry Community Services, Inc.</b> <i>Loaves &amp; Fishes Kitchen - Intake and Referral Project</i> To hire a part-time bi-lingual intake and referral coordinator to serve the 945 clients who annually visit the meal program. Coordinator will assist in accessing services, i.e. health, safety, education, housing, job placement/training, and track clients' progress to determine whether additional assistance is needed.	\$20,000	√		
<b>Peacemaker Community, Inc.</b> <i>Zen Peacemakers PathMaker Program</i> To develop plans for 40 units of supported permanent housing, job creation through for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, and provide services to sustain those who are homeless and others formerly incarcerated. The goal is to integrate these individuals into the community through this partnership between the Peacemaker Community, Gasoline Alley Foundation, and Hampden County Sheriff's Office.	\$15,000	√		
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Riverside Industries, Inc.</b> <i>Window Replacement Energy Savings Program</i> To replace and repair some of the 674 old factory windows of this building that provides work space for 300 clients with developmental disabilities, and staff as they provide rehabilitation, training, employment, and increased self-sufficiency. Replacing all windows will save over \$40,000 in energy costs annually.	\$10,000		√	

<b>ServiceNet, Inc.</b> <i>De-leading and Painting of Florence Inn</i> To de-lead the exterior of this structure, which offers single room occupancy housing for 14 adults with developmental disabilities and recreational day programming for those with mental retardation. This is a mandate from the Northampton Housing Authority.	\$5,500		√	
<b>Springfield Rescue Mission</b> <i>Taylor Street Emergency Shelter (Temporary Operating Support)</i> To keep the emergency shelter for 40+ single men open on Sunday nights; guests receive breakfast, dinner, a hot shower and clean bed seven nights/week.	\$3,000	√		
<b>Stavros Center for Independent Living, Inc.</b> <i>Home Sweet Home Ramp Program</i> To build modular wheelchair ramps, at a reduced cost, for low-income people with disabilities. This project targets those at risk of institutionalization as they are trapped in their homes with no safe way to exit in an emergency.	\$20,000	√		
<b>Third Sector New England, Inc.</b> <i>VFI/OUT</i> To offer public performances of literary works created by incarcerated women. Creative writing workshops facilitated by a licensed social worker and a professional artist encourage inmates to make life changes and engage positively with their community. This sharing introduces this literature to the community.	\$8,400	√		
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>The Brick House Community Resource Center, Inc.</b> <i>Transitioning to Success</i> To reduce the drop out rate and develop life-skills with 25-30 at-risk Turners Falls High School students. An intensive community needs identification process inspired this project with the research-based curriculum, Reconnecting Youth. Collaborators include Franklin Hampshire Career Center and local businesses.	\$10,000			√
<b>Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center</b> <i>One-Book Holyoke</i> To engage hundreds of residents in reading "Night" by Elie Weisel during an 8-week period for the third consecutive year. Scheduled events coinciding with the reading includes film screenings, a one-credit course at Holyoke Community College, a panel discussion about the book, and a staged dramatic reading.	\$5,000	√		
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Dunbar Community Center, Inc.</b> <i>Teen Truancy and Dropout Prevention Project</i> Thirty-five at-risk high school students receive intensive after school tutoring in math and science complemented by fitness, nutrition, life skills, and critical thinking. Collaborators are the Basketball Hall of Fame, Health New England, Baystate Health Systems, and Springfield Health and Human Services Department.	\$4,000	√		

<b>Hampshire Educational Collaborative</b> <i>YouthReal</i> To offer college and career development for 24 low-income Ware youth age 16-18 with Americorps and Massachusetts Service Alliance. Adult leaders will facilitate this community service learning project, developing leadership skills, work experience, and helping teens set and achieve goals.	\$5,000		√	
<b>Holyoke Community College Foundation, Inc.</b> <i>Advance to College: Avance al Colegio</i> To create a tutor/mentor and parent education program for 12-15 Latino 7th and 8th students to transition to high school. Their high school mentors, and a college student will meet with mentees twice a week. This program identifies Latino culture as a source of strength for student success and family involvement.	\$22,500	√		
<b>Holyoke Public Library Corp.</b> <i>Bilingual Early Childhood Project</i> To encourage reading skills in 15 children in grades K-3 and their families through story-time. There will be five parent-child participation programs; five performances, educational workshops, and informational materials.	\$3,500	√		
<b>Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Inc.</b> <i>S.O.A.R. Project</i> To cultivate leadership among 10 low-income women through participation in program design and delivery, group facilitation, program monitoring and evaluation. In the 32-hour training program, participants will design and implement a 6-week program activity at local women's centers.	\$6,000			√
<b>Springfield Library and Museums Association</b> <i>Summer Festival Days</i> To offer a 6 weeks drop-in family summer program, to explore art, history and science through performances, demonstrations and activities. This project was developed in response to a citywide initiative focused on improving student achievement through family involvement and out-of-school learning.	\$10,000	√		
<b>WGBH Educational Foundation</b> <i>Ready to Lead in Literacy - Year 2</i> To increase early literacy skills in low-income children ages 2-6 through a multi-faceted approach as part of a 3-year effort. Workshops for childcare providers and adults will enhance the learning experience of PBS educational programming, offering take-home resources, website, Hotline and an evaluation tool.	\$15,000	√	√	√
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Whole Children, Inc.</b> <i>Classroom Upgrade and Outdoor Play Area</i> To upgrade the only classroom, create a student and parent resource area with three computer stations and create an outdoor activity area for children with special needs and their families. Small classes will be offered utilizing state of the art teaching software and the area will be suitable to offer programs for teens.	\$18,000	√	√	√
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>

<b>FutureWorks, Inc.</b> <i>Phase II of Technology Upgrade</i> To replace 10 computers, expand computers configured for individuals with disabilities, upgrade phone system, servers, fax machines, printers and copiers, all utilized in the job search process. This is year two of a three upgrade plan for this organization which assists 11,000-12,000 job seekers annually.	\$9,000	√			
<b>Nuestras Raices</b> <i>Fruits of Our Labor</i> To create a youth-run nursery at Tierra de Oportunidades in Holyoke. Youth will learn job skills and supply locally produced plants to 125 families participating in community gardens. Plants will include cold-hardy culturally-relevant species including fruit and nut trees which are part of the Puerto Rican landscape.	\$6,000	√			
<b>South End Community Center, Inc.</b> <i>Computer Learning Center Expansion Project</i> To offer job training for entry level positions in information technology, and provide job search skills for young adults ages 16 and older and older adults. This project will expand the use of the existing computer lab to a new population and purpose.	\$5,000	√			
<b>Young Entrepreneurs Society, Inc.</b> <i>Odd Jobs Squad</i> To expand this free tri-annual advertising service for teens who are available to help residents, small business, and organizations with odd jobs through the internet in an "e-Bay" like site. Participating youth develop economic self-sufficiency skills. 250 youth will serve 750 adults in the first year.	\$5,000			√	
<b>YWCA of Western Massachusetts</b> <i>YWCA YouthBuild Relocation Project</i> To relocate this program from leased space to the main YWCA facility. Nine staff members and 32 participants will have classrooms, computer lab, construction training and office space. The 16-24 year-old participants receive education, construction skills, counseling, job readiness and life skill development.	\$15,000	√			
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>Award</b>		<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>The Nature Conservancy of Massachusetts</b> <i>Westfield Highlands Forest Partnership</i> To implement year 1 of a 3-year strategy with community organizations, landowners and other stakeholders to create a healthy, free-flowing Westfield River surrounded by a connected network of forest reserves and sustainably-managed working woodlands to benefit the 100,000 people who live in the watershed.	\$5,000	√			
<b>Westfield River Watershed Association</b> <i>Education Program</i> To educate students and adults in the 23 towns of the Westfield watershed of the importance of protecting our water resources through activities including a puppet show. Collaborators include Marmalade Productions, Westfield River Environmental Center, and Westfield State College.	\$4,000	√			
<b>YOUTH PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Award</b>		<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>

<b>Camp Howe, Inc.</b> <i>Adventure for ALL - A Fully Accessible Challenge Course Program</i> To build a new challenge course program for children ages 7-17 of all ability levels. The course will be built in the trees, designed to accommodate a variety of disabilities including the wheelchair bound, with low and high elements. Camp staff and local teachers will be trained as the site is also used during the school-year.	\$12,500	√	√	√
<b>Community Young Men's Christian Association of Greenfield MA</b> <i>Transportation Project</i> To purchase a 24-29 passenger bus to transport participants of all ages to and from the YMCA, and for field trips. With limited transportation options in this rural community, providing transportation for program participants is a necessity.	\$10,000			√
<b>Deana's Fund, Inc.</b> <i>Doin' the Right Thing Program</i> To teach bullying and harassment prevention and promote healthy relationships to students in grade 4-8 in Montague and Greenfield through theater presentation. Training will be offered to school staff and parents assisting in creating an anti-bullying climate.	\$5,000			√
<b>Girl Scouts of Pioneer Valley, Inc.</b> <i>Baby Think it Over</i> To purchase 10 "Baby simulators" and curriculum for 75 middle school girls to explore the physical, emotional, social, and financial consequences of teen parenthood. A simulator baby cries at random 24 hours a day, each is equipped with a reporting system on the care received while the teen's responsibility.	\$5,000	√		
<b>YOUTH PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Great Trails Council, Inc. - Boy Scouts of America</b> <i>Adirondack Shelters</i> To build and install three shelters at Camp Chesterfield, to be used by 1,500 youth, young men age 7-20 and young women age 14-20. Students of Franklin Technical School in Turners Falls will build the shelters.	\$7,200	√	√	√
<b>May Institute, Inc.</b> <i>Social Skills Training Program for Adolescents</i> To offer social skills training for 40-50 adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. Youth meet in small groups and focus on one social skill-set through peer-mediation, thinking-feeling activities, reciprocity instruction, social stories, and role playing. Parents receive monthly support and education.	\$5,000	√	√	√
<b>Partners for Youth with Disabilities</b> <i>Western Massachusetts Making Healthy Connections</i> To offer mentoring and skill building for 30-35 youth, ages 14-22 with physical, sensory, emotional, learning, and cognitive disabilities. Typically sheltered, they will gain an understanding of their health care needs, and how to transition to adult health services as they work with a mentor with a similar disability.	\$15,000	√	√	

<p><b>Pioneer Valley Council, Inc. - Boy Scouts of America</b>  <i>2007 Expanded Scoutreach Initiative</i>          To recruit over 1,900 low-income high risk youth (boys age 6 and older, boys and girls ages 14 and older) to establish new scouting groups and support existing programs. This strategy includes neighborhood outreach and collaboration, and recruiting local adult volunteers.</p>	\$10,000	√		
<p><b>Spanish American Union</b>  <i>AWAKE/WMBB Pegram Mentoring Program</i>          To offer 200 at-risk adolescents and young adults, between the ages of 13-21, a mentoring program in collaboration with the Western Mass Blitzin' Bears. Youth will work with mentors, have access to job development, academic and athletic assistance, violence prevention and mediation, and health counseling.</p>	\$20,000	√		
<p><b>Special Olympics Massachusetts, Inc.</b>  <i>Sports for All Rural Communities</i>          To provide 50 student athletes with intellectual disabilities participation in organized track and field activities. After the months of practice the athletes will participate in the Green River Games scheduled to take place at Frontier Regional High School.</p>	\$7,500		√	√