



**Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
Partners for the Pioneer Valley
Competitive Grant Awards--April 2009**

In the first cycle of 2009, the Competitive Grant Program awarded \$511,500 to 55 projects serving Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties. Awards represent 43% of the total dollars requested. Grants are listed by category: Education, Health and Nutrition, Housing, Human Services, Arts and Culture, and Environment and Animals. If you would like information or are interested in contributing to any of these projects, please contact the Grants staff at 413-732-2858.

EDUCATION	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
American International College Rising 9th Graders: To offer a 5-week summer program for 80 low-income Springfield Public School 8th grade students. Students will participate in intensive academic and social skills enrichment experiences with a focus on English, math and science. In addition, students will engage in workplace readiness and career exploration.	\$11,000	√		
Center for New Americans Learning Opportunities for Underserved Newcomers: To train a cohort of volunteers to lead community-based ESOL conversation groups for 40-60 immigrant and refugees.	\$10,900		√	√
Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center From the Ground Up: To replace carpeting and tiling and upgrade flooring in The Care Center building. Organization annually provides a comprehensive bilingual education program for 130-140 pregnant or parenting teen mothers and their young children.	\$16,000	√		
Holyoke Rotary Foundation, Inc. Family Literacy Back Pack: To provide back packs containing literacy development items for 7 Holyoke elementary schools. Materials are in Spanish and English and geared for students in grades 1-3 and their families members. Families can borrow the back packs for use at home and the back pack materials can be utilized with a whole classroom.	\$6,000	√		
Let's Get Ready, Inc. Let's Get Ready Holyoke: To offer a 9-week pilot program of intensive SAT preparation and college preparation curriculum for 30-45 Holyoke high school juniors. Students will receive intensive tutoring, take SAT practice tests, have one-on-once college advising, and visit college campuses.	\$10,000	√		
Northfield Mount Hermon School Hampden County Expansion Initiative - Upward Bound Program: To engage low-income Springfield and Holyoke 9th and 10th grade students in Upward Bound where they will receive weekly tutoring and support in developing the necessary tools for college entrance. All students would be the first in their family to go to college.	\$15,000	√		
Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Inc. Launching Audio Access in Western Massachusetts: To provide students with visual disabilities in elementary through high school with a 1-year personal memberships to RFB&D's audio library. Students will be able to download textbooks and non-school related materials to their computers and MP3 players where ever they have internet access.	\$5,000	√		

HEALTH AND NUTRITION	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Assoc., Inc. - MA Chapter Alzheimer's Awareness Seminars: To offer 2 events educating 50 health care providers and 250 residents about Alzheimer's disease and the programs available through the Alzheimer's Association. Participants will be educated about the connection between heart disease and Alzheimer's and the links between lifestyle and risk factors for Alzheimer's.	\$5,000	√	√	√
American National Red Cross, Greater Westfield Chapter Business Equipment: To purchase 6 hand-held radios, computers, and a server to better serve the 4,100 greater Westfield residents who access the chapter's services annually. These items will allow the organization to better respond to disaster relief situations.	\$5,000	√		
Cancer House of Hope, Inc. Healing Art of Yoga for Ongoing Cancer Recovery: To offer a free weekly fitness program and support group at Springfield and Westfield locations for individuals affected by cancer. Participants will practice yoga with individualized assistance for increasing strength, flexibility and balance. The program gives participants the opportunity to focus on their emotional and physical well-being at a time critical time in one's life.	\$4,500	√		
Cooley Dickinson Hospital Health Care Corp. Emergency Department Expansion: To expand and renovate Emergency Department which annually serves over 37,000 patients. Renovations include the addition of 5 patient rooms, an additional acute care/trauma room, as well as the relocation of the Fast Track program.	\$15,000		√	
Gray House, Inc. Food Pantry: To increase capacity to purchase food for 20,000 low-income North End Springfield residents. Recipients receive 3 days worth of food for 3 daily meals plus snacks and can participate 3 times/year and at Thanksgiving.	\$18,000	√		
Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry, Inc. Building Campaign: To build a new home for soup kitchen and food pantry which provides services to over 12,500 residents annually. Organization seeks to raise \$300,000 and expects to have the facility up and running in July, 2009.	\$15,000	√		
MAB Community Services, Inc. Mejor Vista, Mejor Vida - Year 2: To continue to provide vision rehabilitation and diabetes self-management education to 50 Holyoke residents who are visually impaired due to diabetes. In collaboration with Holyoke Health Center, MAB will screen patients for vision problems and provide patients with the necessary tools to manage their vision loss as well as their diabetes.	\$6,500	√		
Massachusetts Brain Injury Association Think A-Head: To educate students in grades 4-12 about brain injury awareness and the importance of wearing a seatbelt. A combination of the Think A-Head program and the Friends of Natalie program will be used with a particular emphasis on reaching Hispanic youth.	\$5,000	√		
Northeast Organic Farming Association - Mass. Chapter, Inc. Gardening the Community: To expand the number of families participating in growing produce in one of the organization's organic gardens located in Springfield. Families participating in Baystate Medical Center's child obesity program will be recruited to learn to garden and receive the support for a dietician to meet their weight loss goals.	\$7,500	√		

HEALTH AND NUTRITION Continued	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, Inc. Get Real: Comprehensive Sex Education That Works: To continue to develop and offer Get Real, a 27-session comprehensive sexuality education program, for middle school students and have it integrated into the Springfield Public School curriculum. Teachers are being trained to implement the program and a web based system will provide ongoing online assistance.	\$15,000	√		
Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Inc. Community Awareness Project: To educate Latino residents about health and preventive health measures and services specifically addressing the high rate of teen pregnancy in Springfield. Planned Parenthood will offer trainings to community members as well as parents and their teen-age children. It is expected that the educated community members will share their knowledge with others.	\$12,000	√		
Take and Eat, Inc. Weekend Meals for Homebound Elders: To provide meals on the weekend to homebound elders by recruiting volunteers from various faith based communities to make and deliver the food.	\$5,000	√	√	√
HOUSING	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
32 Byers Street, Inc. Supportive Services Critical Funding: To continue to provide supportive services to the 47 low-income formerly homeless Springfield residents of 32 Byers Street while the organization identifies funding sources to cover the costs of these necessary services. A majority of the residents have mental health or substance abuse issues and supportive services are crucial in preventing tenants' return to homelessness.	\$6,000	√		
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity Rehabilitation of Home at 61 Sylvan Street, Springfield: To create a simple, decent and affordable home for a low-income family by renovating 61 Sylvan Street in Springfield, a home that has been vacant for nearly a decade. Rehabilitation includes interior and exterior work including all new plumbing and heating systems. This is the first property renovation undertaking for the organization but appropriate given the number of abandoned homes in Springfield.	\$8,000	√		
HAP, Inc. Resident Services Coordinator: To provide low or moderate-income tenants of 477 rental units with access to a clinician who can help tenants deal with problematic or disruptive behavior that impact their housing. It is estimated that 25 tenants will receive services.	\$8,700	√	√	
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity Amherst College-Habitat Initiative: To raise the necessary funds to build 4 news home in Amherst on land donated by Amherst College for 4 low-income families. The building is underway and it is anticipated that the 3rd house will be completed in September 2009.	\$9,600		√	
Stavros Center for Independent Living, Inc. Home Sweet Home Ramp Building Program: To build modular wheelchair ramps, at a reduced cost, for low-income people with disabilities. A network of community partners supports this project, which targets those at risk of institutionalization as they are trapped in their homes with no safe way to exit in an emergency.	\$20,000	√	√	√

HUMAN SERVICES	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
<p>All Out Adventures, Inc. Accessible Cycling on the Manhan Rail Trail: To continue to provide a 10-week accessible cycling program for 70 disabled residents on the Manhan Rail Trail in Easthampton. The program operates on Thursdays from May through June and 2 open-house events would be held to introduce adaptive cycling to the general public.</p>	\$4,900	√	√	
<p>Anti-Displacement Project, Inc. Creating Public Art through Popular Education at 130 Union Street: To finish the exterior of 130 Union Street, Springfield which houses services for over 1,400 low-income and immigrant workers. Exterior work includes sealing the brick, creating a playground, and commissioning a muralist to create an exterior mural representative of the organization's mission.</p>	\$15,000	√		
<p>Camp Howe, Inc. Emergency Funding for Repairs and Clean Up After Recent Ice Storms: To repair Goshen camp and bring it back to code after it was devastated by winter ice storms. Massive number of trees fallen trees need to be removed, electrical and fire alarm lines need to be fixed, and leaning power poles need to be straightened.</p>	\$15,000	√	√	√
<p>Carson Center for Human Services, Inc. Kamp for Kids: To provide a day camp experience to 12 Springfield youth, ages 3-22, at Kamp for Kids in Westfield. Camp brings together disabled and able-bodied children to participate in swimming, water therapy, expressive arts and crafts, reading and non-competitive sports. The youth interact with one another and become friends in a safe, non-competitive environment where they gain a sense of acceptance.</p>	\$10,000	√		
<p>Douglas A. Thom Clinic, Inc. WITS Outdoor Therapeutic Play Space: To create a 1,632 square foot outdoor play space for the 300 children with special needs who attend therapeutic groups or work with therapists one-on-one at Westfield program. Outdoor play on the appropriate equipment can help children develop fine and gross motor skills; provide opportunities for language, social, behavioral and cognitive development.</p>	\$7,000	√		
<p>Earthdance Creative Living Project, Inc. Harriet Tubman Healthy Living Conference: To hold a healthy living conference in Plainfield from July 28-August 2, 2009 for 25 youth activists and 15 adults. Participants will engage in critical thinking exercises, learn about nutrition, learn to meditate, engage in problem solving, and develop leadership skills.</p>	\$2,500	√	√	
<p>Franklin County DIAL/SELF, Inc. Safe Place for Kids: To create Safe Place sites in Franklin County where youth ages 12-18 can go when they feel unsafe in some way. Volunteers will transport youth from the Safe Place site to DIAL/SELF where the needs of the youth will be addressed. This program replicates the National Safe Place model which has been in existence since 1981.</p>	\$5,000			√
<p>Greater Springfield Business Foundation, Inc. Pioneer Valley Renew: To engage 50-75 Pioneer Valley experts and unconventional leaders in a 36-hour brainstorming session to share 'out of the box' thinking on 4-6 community-focused topics. This is a program of the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield.</p>	\$10,000	√	√	√

HUMAN SERVICES Continued	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
Hockey Project, Inc. Equipment/Transportation: To purchase hockey equipment and an equipment carrier for newly formed operation that will teach the sport of ice hockey to at-risk youth. In collaboration with Sabis International Charter School in Springfield 40-45 students will be chosen to participate in a 10-week introductory hockey session. Upon completion of the session students who wish to continue on the sport will be placed on a team.	\$3,000	√		
Human Resources Unlimited, Inc. Young Adult Transition into Independent Living: To provide young adults with mental illness, attending the Star Light Center, with financial support in order to purchase specific items necessary in helping them transition into work or additional schooling. Students will receive upto \$1,540 in support to purchase a computer or other educational supplies.	\$7,500		√	
Peace Development Fund, Inc. Mothers Among Us: To provide 20 pregnant, postpartum and parenting women incarcerated at Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center with a support group on issues of motherhood. The bi-weekly group is open to women in all security levels.	\$8,000	√		
Prison Book Program Prison Book Project: To compile and send book packages free of charge to imprisoned men and women. Volunteers working at North Hadley Congregational Church respond to written requests and send prisoners 2-4 books in each prisoner's expressed areas of interest.	\$1,700	√	√	√
Victim Rights Law Center, Inc. Western Massachusetts Rape Survivors Law Project: To provide sexual assault victims with free civil legal representation and legal advice to help safeguard their rights related to privacy, safety, housing, access to education and employment, immigration status and financial stability. Pro bono attorneys will be trained to provide these services to clients.	\$5,000	√	√	√
Western Massachusetts Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America 2009 Expanded Scoutreach Initiative: To recruit over 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, recruiting local adult volunteers, and local youth.	\$10,000	√		
Weston Rehabilitation Associates, Inc. Rehabilitation & Recovery Program and Systems Upgrade: To enhance program which assists women transitioning from jail and/or inpatient drug treatment program by supporting staff time and transportation costs during pre-release volunteer period for women. Staff will create and implement a formalized outreach process to those who have transitioned from program; and create a database to track demographic and outcome data for women at all stages of participation.	\$10,000	√		
YMCA of Greater Springfield Youth and Teen Drop-in Centers - A Better Place to Be: To continue to operate 2 youth and teen drop-in centers where at-risk youth ages 6-18 can access programming providing structure, guidance, discipline and positive role models. The centers are located in Birch Park Circle in West Springfield and Lower Liberty Heights in Springfield.	\$20,000	√		

HUMAN SERVICES Continued	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
YMCA of Greater Westfield, Inc. Activity Bus To purchase a 14-passenger activity bus. The bus will allow the organization to provide transportation for children enrolled in Camp Shepard and on sporting teams and will be used to transport seniors involved in programming.	\$13,000	√		
Young Entrepreneurs Society, Inc. YES BizCenter Growth Plan: To make advancements in the business aspect of this organization to offset costs of running both educational programs and job training and employment opportunities. Organization will renovate their basement to house document finishing department and a new inkjet and toner refilling service. A marketing consultant will be hired to assist organization in expanding customer base and a web designer will be hired to develop a print-on-demand platform for website.	\$10,000			√
ARTS AND CULTURE	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
Drama Studio, Inc. Capacity Building Project: To implement new marketing techniques in order to increase enrollment of youth ages 8-11 in acting classes. Techniques include direct mail, new vacation programs, an enhanced website, and a wider range of pricing.	\$6,200	√		
Mohawk Trail Concerts, Inc. 40th Anniversary Summer Festival: To celebrate the organization's 40th anniversary with 5 weekends of summer chamber music concerts drawing upon the music and talents of artists of the last 4 decades.	\$7,000	√	√	√
Springfield Library and Museums Association Museum of Springfield History Capital Campaign - Phase II: To support Phase II of \$8.9 million capital campaign to complete the renovation and expansion of a new Museum of Springfield History located at the former Verizon office building adjacent to the museum grounds in Springfield. Phase II renovations include the construction of a 2-story, 12,000-square-foot Great Hall. The Museum serves over 600,000 patrons a year and anticipates increasing attendance by 40,000 in the first year.	\$25,000	√		
Springfield School Volunteers, Inc. Over the Top: The Ballroom Dance Project: To teach ballroom dance to Springfield 5th grade students at 8 elementary schools during the 2008-2009 school year and to run an alumni group of 6th and 7th graders. The elementary school students will receive biweekly instruction. At the end of the school-year 8 pairs of dancers from each of the schools will represent their school in a city wide "dance-off". The alumni group performs at special events.	\$6,000	√		
Springfield Symphony Orchestra Lunchtime Concert Series, 2008-2009: To hold 3 lunch time concerts at Symphony Hall attended by a wide variety of people including downtown Springfield professionals, senior citizens, middle and high school students, and the general public. The daytime concert precedes the classical evening performance.	\$4,000	√		
Stanley Park of Westfield, Inc. EAST Meets WESTfield: To hold a special evening reception and performances exploring the Far Eastern lifestyles in Stanley Park's newly rededicated Asian Garden. Evening performances will include Chinese dancers and taiko drummers and will culminate in the opportunity for guests wander the garden illuminated by lanterns made by children in the week leading up to the event.	\$1,000	√		

ARTS AND CULTURE Continued	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
Stone Soul, Inc. Stone Soul Festival: To operate a 3-day music and arts festival at Blunt Park in Springfield. In addition to music and food tents are set up at the festival providing attendees with information on access to health care, African-American history, and community services. This volunteer event is in its 21st year.	\$10,000	√		
Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, Inc. Green Delivery for Western Massachusetts Libraries: To purchase a new truck for book distribution to the over 315 public libraries in Western Massachusetts. In FY2009 the organization delivered over 2 million items to libraries in Western Massachusetts. A new truck will replace an existing truck in the organization's fleet.	\$15,000	√	√	√
Wistariahurst Museum Association, Inc. Creating Holyoke Documentary: To educate residents and visitors to the Pioneer Valley about Holyoke's roots in the industrial paper and textile industries by creating a 1-hour documentary. The documentary will feature the life of Holyoke immigrants and migrants and their role in the development of Holyoke as an industrial city.	\$10,000	√		
ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMALS	Award	Hampden County	Hampshire County	Franklin County
Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc. Community Water Quality Laboratory & Training Center: To construct a water quality laboratory and training center in organization's headquarters located in Greenfield to better serve all of the residents of the Pioneer Valley with information about water quality. The lab will allow organizations to incorporate scientific results into the environmental advocacy work they do.	\$7,500	√	√	√
Forest Park Zoological Society, Inc. Vehicle for Zoo on the Go Program: To purchase a van for traveling zoo program that annually provides over 150 educational sessions to schools and senior centers. Organization's current van is 16 years old and unreliable.	\$15,000	√	√	
Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc. Terrific Turtles!: To provide an environmental education program at Green Meadow school and at Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary for students, teachers, families and local residents. Participants will learn about turtles and the world around them.	\$2,500	√		
Toxics Action Center, Inc. Zero Waste Campaign: To utilize a grassroots process to educate Pioneer Valley residents about the limited space available in landfills and the toxicity of waste incineration therefore encouraging the public to recycle, minimize waste, and reduce consumption. Grassroot community groups will receive capacity building assistance, the general public will be educated about the concept of zero waste, and with the help of the media they will build visibility for waste reduction programs.	\$5,000	√	√	√