

Brattleboro Health District (Windham County)

Community Projects

August 4, 2023

Backbone Organization: United Way of Windham County

Website: <https://www.unitedwaywindham.org/health-equity>

Brattleboro's Data Driven Problem Statement:

Community members who seek social services (such as housing and food) from community organizations and government programs often experience a need for more than one resource. These community needs are not always met effectively, timely, or appropriately.

The following are the most resounding opportunity gaps when supporting the health of our community:

1. Funding Limitations & Intersectional Needs
2. Lack of Linguistic & Cultural Humility

Other related opportunity gaps that could possibly be explored and addressed are distrust of the current systems of care, mutual aid and peer supports as more effective tools, lack of transitional housing, and the many gaps in mental health resources.

Community Projects

Atowi	2
Community Asylum Seekers	2
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)	2
The Groundworks Collaborative	2
Neighborhood Connections	2
Out in The Open	3
Putney Community Cares	3
SUSU	3
The Root Social Justice Centre	3

Atowi

To provide a community food shelf/food preparation program that will both serve nutritional needs for under-resourced members of our community, as well as provide food sovereignty opportunities for learning about culturally-appropriate sustenance relationships

Community Asylum Seekers

Case management services such as community orientation, job training and placement, connection to language classes, childcare and medical insurance as well as interpretation services which includes opening access to medical and mental health care for asylum seekers. Also, a collaborative series of antiracism workshops and study groups designed for people in Windham County engaged with immigrant and refugee support.

Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)

Expansion of health and social integration programming for refugees in Windham County. To include sewing courses, health education events, art therapy, yoga, and language classes. Pashto and Dari translation services, transportation services and group family outings.

The Groundworks Collaborative

To augment staff support for our organization that focuses on providing direct services to people experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and those historically disenfranchised (including BIPOC populations), with staff who are united in our philosophy of care and cultural humility of the people we serve.

Neighborhood Connections

Increasing rural access to mental healthcare, nutrition, employment, recreation, transport, and socialization through social work services and programming. These offerings will serve residents of Stratton, Londonderry, and Jamaica Vermont.

Out in The Open

Augmenting staff support in health equity access for rural LGBTQ+ HEART program, health justice services, and support community members' participation in Brattleboro Memorial Hospital LGBTQ+ Clinic Advisory group.

Putney Community Cares

Fostering good health, wellbeing, and independence of all members of our community, from newborns to older adults through a variety of projects. These include providing support to the prepared meal distribution program, a memorial garden for reflection and grieving, adult diaper and brief bank, BIPOC and gender affirming hair clinics, clothing and undergarments to support Trans youth, education and outreach on indigenous history, and a community nurse program.

SUSU

Free food and distribution program with CSA food boxes delivered to BIPOC families. Multicultural workshops and programs around racial trauma healing, herbalism and healing. Supporting and retaining diverse staff and offering of a resilience farm volunteer program.

The Root Social Justice Centre

BIPOC Healing Series Hair Clinic to address the needs of multiracial families of primarily southern Vermont.