

Burlington Health District (Chittenden County)

Community Projects

August 4, 2023

Burlington's Data Driven Problem Statement:

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the existing issue of health inequities and social disconnectedness in defined sub populations of Chittenden County. These stressors were noted particularly as a result of pandemic “lock down” and anxiety regarding the effects of the pandemic on such elements of health, school, employment, and housing. The UVMHC 2022 CNA survey results found that the majority of residents in the areas served by the medical center feel safe and trust in their communities. However, focus group responses described a desire from many groups for stronger community connectedness so as to improve mental health and well being.

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Age Well

Age Well will restart its New American Community Meal Programs offering a culturally appropriate community meal for both New Americans and Vermonters, over the age of 60 and qualifying adults under 60 with a disability, to enjoy as well as activities celebrating one another's heritage, customs, holidays, and festivals.

Intended results: Improve nutrition, health, and social well-being, and decrease isolation among older New Americans.

[Learn More about Age Well](#)

Conscious Homestead a Project of Community Resilience Organizations (CROs)

CROS, a BIPOC urban farm and wholeness retreat, will increase programming to include free vegetables, fruits, herbs, and culturally important seeds; care packages that support BIPOC herbalists and community health; a safe space for workshops led by BIPOC educators focused on mental and physical health; social events to combat the racial isolation many BIPOC Vermont residents face and educational, culturally relevant trips/wellness retreats.

Intended results: Educate BIPOC community members on gardening, land tending, and herbalism; increase the number of care packages available to community members; increase mental, physical, and spiritual health of BIPOC partners and strengthen community relationships and ancestral connections.

[Learn More about Conscious Homestead](#)

VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (VABVI)

Teaching individuals, ages 55 and over who are blind or visually impaired to use a wide range of assistive technology devices to access information available to sighted individuals.

Intended results: Help a marginalized, socially-isolated population reduce their social isolation by staying connected to important information, friends and family, their communities, and the world.

[Learn More about VABVI](#)

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (VCJR)

This funding will support enhancements to VCJR's newly opened specialized re-entry and recovery center for justice-involved people living with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders.

Intended results: Reduce social isolation and improve health equity via capacity enhancements to our new re-entry and recovery center for this particularly stigmatized and marginalized population.

[Learn More about VCJR](#)

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

WPP will increase the number of free, monthly community dinners hosted at the O'Brien Community Center engaging people in the community with each other and with Winooski-based chefs.

Intended results: By expanding the number of people who can attend Community Dinners, WPP hopes to expand its audience, capitalize on current momentum around substance use disorder prevention, and become more of a household name.

[Learn More about Winooski Partnership for Prevention](#)

The Winooski News

The Winooski News is a community-based news service serving Winooski, Vermont that reduces social isolation by providing timely local news to 1,200+ subscribers. Our newspaper comes out every two weeks, with more than 90 local stories in the past year, by pairing high school and college student reporters with a part-time editor to provide community-scale content at no cost. The vision of The Winooski News is to “peel back the layers” on quickly evolving stories about the people and places that make up the Onion City.

Intended Results: Over the next twelve months we plan to increase our capacity by hiring a part-time journalist and contracting with community members to provide content in community languages other than English. We anticipate that this will increase the quality of reporting, as well as strengthening our engagement with community members whose first language is not English.

[Learn More about The Winooski News](#)