

# St. Albans Health District (Franklin and Grand Isle Counties)

## Community Projects

August 4, 2023

**Backbone Organization:** Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi

**Website:** <https://abenakination.com/>

**St. Albans’ Data Driven Problem Statement:**

Across Grand Isle and Franklin counties, people are not able to access the health care and support services they need. This is a complex problem, and is caused in part by affordability, difficulty getting an appointment, lack of transportation, workforce challenges and systemic inequities in our institutions, policies, and infrastructures. Barriers to access contribute to mental health crises, substance misuse and chronic disease prevalence in our region. Communities in our region are expressing a lack of confidence in the health care and support systems and report feeling unsafe, unheard, and alone.

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### Community Projects

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## **C.I.D.E.R. (aka Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources)**

Raising awareness about C.I.D.E.R.'s accessibility and other programs, through marketing and the mailing of monthly press (1400+ recipients monthly). Additionally, increasing accessibility by building ramps, accessibility features, and lending equipment as they come along. The accessibility projects are built free of charge to anyone in Grand Isle County in need, with all volunteer labor, increasing affordability, addressing barriers in infrastructure, and improving access.

Intended results: To increase accessibility and affordability by raising awareness of C.I.D.E.R.'s accessibility programs and building projects based on demand.

## **Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)**

CVOEO is partnering with Healthy Roots Collaborative to renovate a warehouse to serve as a storage and distribution center for charitable food. The structure is located in Sheldon, VT, and is being donated by food service provider, The Abbey Group. CHEP funding will be used to upfit a renovated space with the equipment needed to safely process, repackage, and store local food to be distributed to area food shelves and pantries. Funding will also purchase needed construction materials.

## Maquam Bay of Missisquoi

### Creation of a Community Cultural Center

We have started the process of creating a cultural center for our community. This center will allow our people to come together to celebrate their culture, engage in their traditions, and join in health and wellness programs in a trusted and safe environment.

### Grants Manager for Capacity Building

As a non-profit, we must rely on grants and donations to fund all of the health and social services for our community. Currently, the Chief of the tribe and the President of our Board of Directors, both of whom have numerous other responsibilities as well as full-time jobs outside the tribe, write and manage all the grants for programming. Because their time is limited, they cannot write and manage the number of grants that are necessary to address the many challenges of our people. We would like to hire a grants manager to help our organization meet the needs of our community.

Intended results: Our community has many strengths that are rooted in our culture but our culture and traditions have been systematically dismantled by colonialism, loss of land, and by policies such as the Eugenics Survey and the Tobacco 21 law. This breakdown of our cultural traditions has resulted in high rates of chronic disease, depression, suicide, substance misuse and domestic abuse. By hiring a grants manager, we hope to not only be able to continue our current programs in a trusted environment but to begin to encourage and support more programming that will build resiliency and connections to community, family and culture.