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**Monday, February 20, 2023**

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*webinars, events, articles*

**Join the Newsletter!**

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## **VT CHEP DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT**

— THE —  
**University of Vermont**  
HEALTH NETWORK

**Porter Medical Center**

# **Middlebury Health District**

## **Addison County, Vermont**

### **Data Driven Problem Statement**

Through this grant we will address mental health and health care inequities by focusing on our community's mental wellbeing and access to care through a lens focusing on training and capacity building, trauma-centered care, LGBTQIA+ support, culturally competent care, and projects to elevate and better support our marginalized populations. We strongly encourage community partners to apply for this grant and share person-centered initiatives that address health equity among populations that have traditionally been underfunded or underrepresented within this community. By the end of May 2023, this grant will have allowed us to support current and new efforts and continue conversations around the sustainability of supporting health equity efforts in Addison County.

### **Community Goal/Vision**

Addison County recognizes that improving health equity within our health care system requires long term learning from community members and establishing a culture that enables this work. Through the Vermont Health Equity Partnership Grant, we will build a foundation to address health inequities by increasing opportunities for prevention, treatment, and promotion of physical and mental wellbeing among underserved populations within our community.

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## **Community Projects!**

### **Addison Allies**

Addison Allies Network, Inc. will continue its work providing social services to immigrants and migrant farm workers in Addison County. These funds will give us a chance to make a lasting impact on our work by allowing us to make purchases and fund long lasting improvements to our work. The funds will also be used to help us complete work to establish the community kitchen/tortillaria/community meeting space in Addison County much need by marginalized populations.

### **Teen Center**

Utilizing VTCHEP funding, the teens of The Teen Center will organize and executive a Pride event for their community. The event will include a traditional Pride parade and gathering, as well as a queer-friendly social event, such as a Pride Ball.

## **Charter House**

Funding will be used to purchase program supplies to supplement ongoing costs directly related to improving and maintaining the health and wellness needs of our clients. Additionally, training for all staff and several community partners in the areas of brain injury and recovery coaching. Lastly, funding will support the attendance of staff to annual housing conferences that focuses on community wide solutions and that involve all levels of barriers; including mental wellness and medical needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.

## **Elderly Services**

Transportation to Project Independence, our medical adult day health center, is critical to medical oversight for poor, disabled and rural elders. We are rebuilding our program after closing for 15 months during the start of the pandemic. This grant funding allows us to increase our transportation routes and build up our attendance with new participants. It also helps us train a new transportation coordinator as Joanne Corbett, current executive director and transportation coordinator, is retiring from that position at the end of June.

## **Engaging Families Project**

Marginalized families will be empowered to have a stronger voice in the mental health/physical health arena by sharing their experiences, making recommendations for change, and becoming the trainers for professionals and policy makers. The actual process of exchanging experiences, ideas, and information with peers and interested professionals is a significant way to promote feelings of self-efficacy. The focus of this project is having families as experts be the trainers for professionals who are learning more about promoting equity through participation in coursework, workshops, and reflective practice.

## **Eye Care Associates**

Middlebury Eye Associates, Inc will be using the funds to provide lenses free of charge to all open door clinic patients, such that they will receive a full pair at no charge as MEAI already provides the frame at no charge. The funding will also help buy a portable slit lamp which will complete our equipment to be able to do mobile visits to migrant workers in coordination with open door clinic. This funding is greatly supporting and complimenting the patients we see in concordance with open door clinic.

## **Giving Fridge**

This VTCHEP grant funding will allow Giving Fridge to continue to serve Addison

County residents our average weekly healthy restaurant prepared meals at the volume we are currently distributing (400-450 meals per week). One of the grants that currently supports approximately half of our weekly meals will expire in March 2023, and so this grant would make up for the deficit in funds beginning in March. A significant portion of our population is experiencing both physical and mental chronic health issues (diagnosed and undiagnosed) that either don't qualify for other programs due to their income being slightly higher than the requirement yet are still unable to make ends meet, or their health issues require specialized meals that they can't access through other programs, or both. Our meals are healthy, delicious and, on average, are made with 50% local ingredients - during the summer and fall, our meals are generally 100% local. Our goal is to provide healthy prepared meals that also strengthen our local food system, resulting in more jobs and more healthy workers to fill them - ultimately enriching our community.

### **Storytelling for Health Equity**

It is crucial that health systems create intentional space and time to listen to the communities they are responsible for serving. I will design and facilitate two (2) community storytelling and listening events in Addison County to honor and share the stories of underserved populations. They will be in thoughtfully facilitated combinations of community members and BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA2s+ health providers. There will be opportunities for storytelling and listening in small and large group settings throughout the events.

### **Teen Makery**

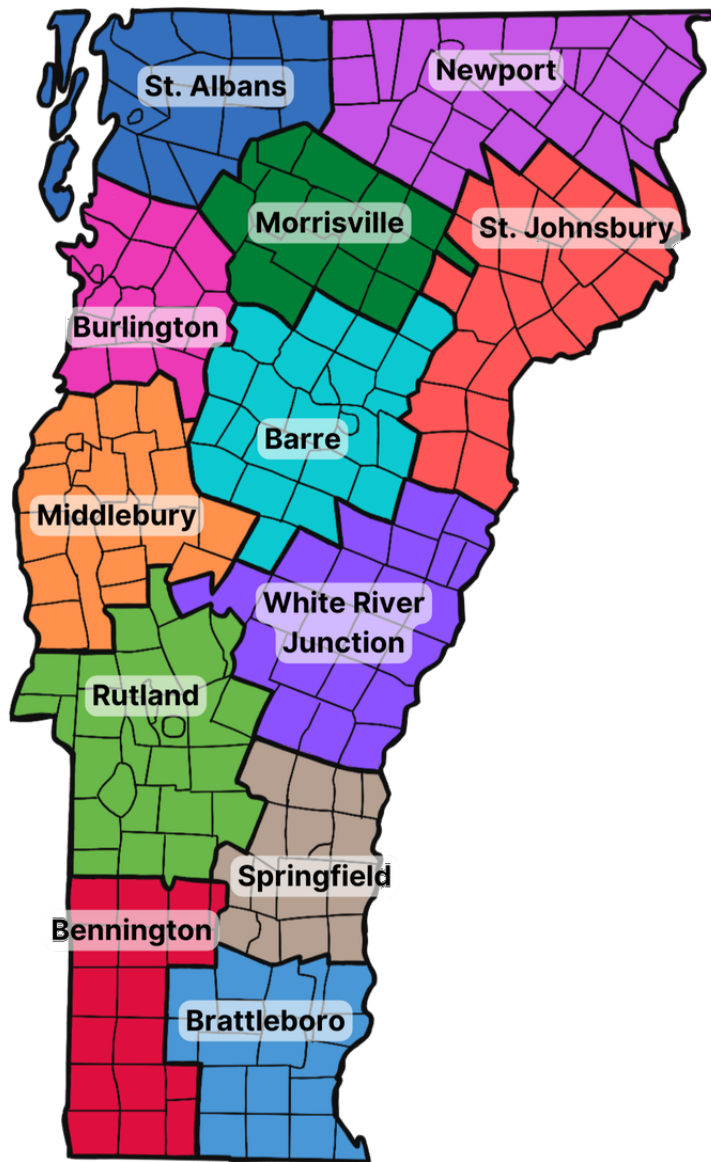
The Teen Makery afterschool program is offered through a partnership between The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, and the Counseling Service of Addison County. The Teen Makery at the Hannaford Career Center welcomes all high school-aged students Thursdays after school from 3:15 – 5:00 pm. Students can participate in sewing, woodworking, games, or technology labs. Each lab is managed by a trained mentor who is an expert in using all the available tools. Students can work on individual projects or team up with other students on a group project. Special classes will be offered, including T-Shirt Design, Improv, CNC Router sign making, basic cooking, welding, and CNC Plasma cutter. Food and snacks will be provided, and transportation can be arranged.

## **Public Health Topic Spotlight**

### **Bennington County**

In 2021, according to the United States Census Bureau, approximately 12.5% of Bennington County's population lived below the poverty line.<sup>1</sup> The poverty line threshold is less than \$12,880 for one-person households, \$17,420 for two-person households, and an additional \$4,540 per added family member.<sup>2</sup> That means approximately 4,600 out of 37,000 people in Bennington County were not equipped with adequate resources to maintain a healthy lifestyle, which is a significant portion of Bennington's population. Some of the core causes of health inequities are poverty and economic barriers which are those most contributing to the health disparities in the county of Bennington. However, prior public health initiatives in the Bennington region have not sufficiently addressed the issues that persist related to the inequity in the area. The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) in partnership with the Vermont Community Health Equity Partnership (VT CHEP) is addressing reform in this area. The seventeen towns and villages that make up the BCRC have generally worked with and on behalf of those municipalities to develop strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, foster economic prosperity, and advance a high standard of living for those who live in the area. For the Bennington community to attain health equity and mitigate health disparities they have focused efforts to center economic growth and prioritize human dignity, lived experience, and health equity. With the Vermont Community Health Equity Partnership community project grants, Bennington can support its community members in attaining the resources necessary to ultimately achieve health equity.

1. *United States Census Bureau. U.S. Census Bureau quickfacts: Bennington County, Vermont. <https://www.census.gov>. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/benningtoncountyvermont>. Published 2023. Accessed February 17, 2023.*
2. *Federal Poverty Level (FPL) - glossary. Federal Poverty Level (FPL) - Glossary | HealthCare.gov. <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-fpl/>. Published 2021. Accessed February 17, 2023.*



*The Public Health Spotlight is a new feature of our Newsletter and is written by VtPHI intern, Zyakkiriah, currently enrolled in the Masters of Public Health program at UVM.*

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## VT CHEP ACTIVITIES



## VT CHEP SPRING CONVENING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

&

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

KILLINGTON GRAND RESORT, VERMONT

*more details to follow*

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## February Workshop

*All the following workshops are offered by Ricky and Tess  
with Padgett Coaching.*

*The audience intended for the workshops is all VT CHEP  
partners statewide.*



*Nonviolent Communication*  
*(aka - Compassionate Communication)*

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Thursday, February 23 | 9:30am - 11:00am

Explore one communication model, nonviolent communication, that often helps to listen and respond beyond what is being said. Using Marshall Rosenberg's nonviolent communication model and other tools from the Center for Nonviolent Communication, they will provide a space to understand and practice the model. We can learn to clarify what we are observing, what emotions we are feeling, what values we want to live by, and what we want to ask of ourselves and others. We can shift from the use the language of blame, judgment, or domination. We can experience the deep pleasure of contributing to each other's well-being.

[Register for Feb 23rd Here!](#)

**March Workshops**

## *The Power of Connection*

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Thursday, March 16 | 1pm - 2:30pm

In building connections with others, we all know the value of developing trust and the importance of communication, consistency, repetitiveness, and vulnerability. We will explore how trust is built and the different views on trust that someone may have. Additionally, we will consider the heart-head connection and the role that vulnerability plays in building connections. The goal is to consider ways you can use the power of connection to establish a self-sustaining network beyond the VT CHEP grant.

**Register for March 16th Here!**

## *Thinking Styles and the Impact on Communications*

Thursday, March 23 | 9:30am - 11am

Our brains are all wired differently - pause with us to reflect on how those differences impact communications. Using a well researched tool around thinking styles, we will explore the ways those thinking styles impact communications. We will explore tips and tricks for ensuring your communications provide anyone, with varying thinking styles, the information they need from your communication. This approach can be used in organizational announcements, grant narratives, community outreach, and many other situations.

[Register for March 23rd Here!](#)

### **Webinar Materials**

[Find Instructions Here](#)



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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



# vermont arts council

working for a creative state

## Creative Futures Grant Program

### Vermont Arts Council

Eligible humanities organizations include: museums, libraries, historical societies, historic sites, and civic and social organizations designed to support the cultural or artistic needs of underserved populations. The aim of this program is to provide aid to creative sector organizations and businesses that continue to struggle financially due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This program is open to all Vermont-based creative economy nonprofits and for-profit businesses including sole proprietors that can demonstrate economic harm caused by or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Unincorporated arts, humanities, or cultural groups without official nonprofit status may apply using a fiscal agent provided they are otherwise eligible.

Funds can be used for any **regular operating expenses**, including but not limited to payroll and benefits, utilities, rent, and insurance. Please refer to the guidelines for more details.

**Round 2: Applications due Friday, February 28, 2023**

[Learn More Here!](#)

The graphic features three stacked white rectangular boxes with purple text. The top box contains 'RWJF Culture of Health', the middle box contains 'Prize: Communities', and the bottom box contains 'Leading the Way'. The background is a purple and blue grid pattern.

# RWJF Culture of Health Prize: Communities Leading the Way

## The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) just shared its 2023 Call for Applications.

This year, RWJF is focused on celebrating community-led solutions that are breaking down the barriers to health and wellbeing caused by structural racism and other forms of discrimination (even if communities don't call it that).

The Prize will recognize up to 10 communities with an unrestricted \$250,000 award and national recognition. Prize winners join the ranks of incredible alumni who are truly building a Culture of Health across the country.

RWJF will award this year's Prize to selected communities that are:

- Addressing structural racism and other structural injustices to create conditions that advance health equity.
- Committing to sustainable policy, systems, environmental, and cultural changes.
- Working alongside partners across sectors, and elevating the expertise and solutions held by people with firsthand experiences of health inequities.
- Engaging in cultural work that celebrates community and envisions and advances a more just future.
- Making the most of available community resources and fostering sustainability.
- Measuring and sharing qualitative and quantitative indicators of progress in culturally relevant ways.

Partnership is at the heart of the Prize. That's why it recognizes whole cities, towns, tribes, reservations, and counties in the U.S.

To be eligible, applications should represent a combination of organizations

whose partnership predates the Prize application.

[Learn More](#)

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## EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

### February is Black History Month



[Learn More and Register for Events](#)

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### Clemmons Family Farm Wants to Share the Joy in Black History

Black History Month is underway.

To commemorate the occasion, the nonprofit [Clemmons Family Farm](#) is releasing “Two Bessies on Two Wheels.” It’s a free, online package of African American history curriculum designed for kids in kindergarten through 5th grade. Using lesson plans and other resources, they’re invited to learn about two Black women

who were pioneers in motorcycle and airplane travel.

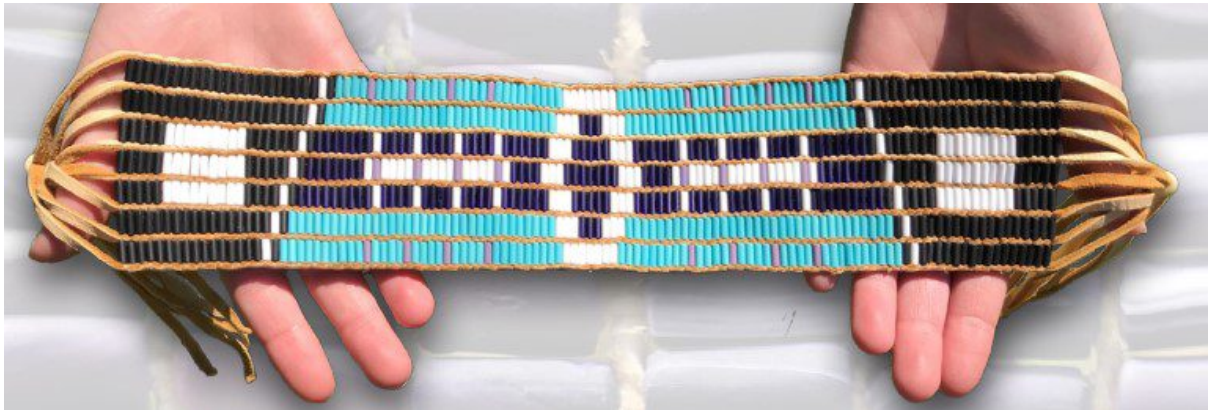
[Listen or Read the Article](#)

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## Celebrating Black HER-STORY

ASTHO's Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge wants not to just focus on Black history, but on Black Her-Story. She highlights five of the many impactful contributions made by African American women that have changed the course of America and sculpted her life. Learn about these outstanding women and how we can honor their legacy in this new blog.

[Read the Blog Here](#)



## Indigenous Historical and Intergenerational Trauma Training for Health/Mental Health Care Providers

This training will provide a general overview of indigenous historical and intergenerational trauma and how this trauma directly impacts the indigenous community's overall health and wellness. The presenters for this training will be Kheya Ganguly, the Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development for the Agency of Human Services and Dr. Frederick Wiseman, a citizen of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi and Coordinator of the Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center.

**Friday, February 22, 1-4pm**

This training is being presented by the VT Department of Mental Health thanks to Health Equity grant funding from the VT Department of Health. Please note — this training contains materials that may be disturbing or upsetting for some attendees.

[Click Here to Join the Meeting](#)



## **LGBTQIA+ Health Summit**

***Co-organized by: Pride Center of Vermont, Out in the Open, and Outright Vermont***

The LGBTQIA+ Health Summit is a place to get together to explore, query, and celebrate the Health & Wellness needs, projects, and strategies of our communities in an environment that is dedicated to and focused on our community and our collective LGBTQIA+ lived experiences. We will provide opportunities to bridge LGBTQIA+ people, family, and caregivers to direct service and care providers in hopes of better meeting the holistic needs of our communities.

[Learn More](#)

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# 2023 NNPHI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BRIDGING PARTNERS TO ADVANCE  
HEALTH EQUITY

**May 9 - 11, 2023 in Washington, DC**

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is proud to announce its 22nd Annual Conference will be held **May 9-11, 2023 in Washington, DC.**

Last year's conference was a huge success and we can't wait for you to see what we have in store this year!

[Learn More](#)

**trust-based  
philanthropy  
project**

**Trust-based Learning  
Webinar**

Featuring



**john a. powell**

Director of the Othering & Belonging Institute,  
University of California, Berkeley

**Beyond Equity: Unpacking  
Targeted Universalism with**

**Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 @ 11am**

*Live Webinar*

Learn More and Register

**john a. powell**

**Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 @ 12pm**

*Live Webinar*

Learn More and Register



**Spotlight on Community-Centric Fundraising**

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @ 11am-5pm**

*Virtual Event*

Learn More and Register

**Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Abenaki Band talks about food security and more**

**Wednesday, Feb 22, 2023, 7-8:30pm**

*Live Webinar*

Learn More and Register



## Racial Equity Toolkit

Centering equity is key to the purpose and mission of any collective impact work, no matter the issue area or focus. It is very difficult to move population or systems change without redressing disparities that exist in almost every community.

### *Racial Equity Toolkit*

## Exploring the Racial Equity Toolkit Webinar

**Thursday, March 2, 2023 @  
4:30pm**

*Toolkit and Webinar*

Register



## Beginning Grant Writing

**Thursday, March 2, 2023 @ 10am-  
1pm**

*Live Webinar*

Register Here



**A to Z of Human Resources:  
*HR Compliance***

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @  
10am-12pm**

*Live Webinar Series*

[Learn More and Register](#)



**UMatter Suicide Prevention  
Awareness and Practice  
Series**

**\* Tues., March 7, 2023, 10-11:30 am**

**\* Wed., April 12, 2023, 10-11:30 am**

**\* Wed., May 10, 2023, 10-11:30 am**

**\* Wed., June 14, 2023, 10-11:30 am**

*Webinar Series*

[Register](#)



**A to Z of Human Resources:  
*HR Administration***

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023 @  
10am-12pm**

*Live Webinar Series*

[Learn More and Register](#)



**Public Health Emergency  
Management Planning  
Toolkit with World Institute  
on Disability**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @  
2pm-3:30pm**

*Live Webinar*

[Register](#)



**A to Z of Human Resources:**



**Community Engagement in**

## Talent Management

**Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 @ 10am-12pm**

*Live Webinar Series*

[Learn More and Register](#)

## Collective Impact

**Thursday, February 23, 2023 @ 1pm-4:30pm**

**Friday, February 24, 2023 @ 1pm-2pm**

*Live Webinar Series*

[Register](#)



### The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge is Simple!

Food Solutions New England will host the 9th version of its food system-oriented 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge.

**April 3, 2023 to April 23, 2023**

[Learn More](#)



### Rebuilding Trust in Public Health Through Effective Communications

Trust is a cornerstone of public health practice. Unfortunately, the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has chipped away at that foundation, leaving many public health jurisdictions weakened in their ability to do their daily work.

*Article*

[Read Article](#)

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## JOIN THE NEWSLETTER!

*Do you want to add  
to the newsletter?*

Do you have an opportunity to share with the statewide collaborative?

Please email [caikman@vtpha.org](mailto:caikman@vtpha.org) with the information!

[Join the VT CHEP Newsletter Here!](#)

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