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**Monday, March 6, 2023**

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*webinars, events, articles*

**Join the Newsletter!**

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## VT CHEP DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT



**Morrisville Health District**

# Lamoille County, Vermont

## Data Driven Problem Statement

Data shows that Vermonters who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and who had COVID-19 had a higher rate of pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, pulmonary and cardiovascular disease compared to white non-Hispanic Vermonters with COVID-19, 19.4 versus 12.1 per 10,000 Vermonters, respectively. COVID-19 among Vermonters who are BIPOC (healthvermont.gov). Between March 2021 through April 2022; Lamoille County had 183 COVID-19 cases among identified BIPOC community members, representing 18% of total cases during this time (VDH-Health Surveillance). Vermonters who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are at a disadvantage regarding healthy equity which was highlighted nationally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Community Goal/Vision

The collaborative will seek to better understand the problem to support community efforts in developing initiatives that will assist in bridging these gaps in inequities. One fundamental step in understanding these disparities and gaps is to engage a diverse community to join the conversations. The Health Equity Collaborative of Lamoille has agreed for the broader engagement strategy as an initial step in promoting future work.

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## **10 Community Projects!**

### Community Engagement Lab

We will be planning and implementing a new regional asset mapping initiative in partnership with youth, community members, and organizations in communities served by the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. The project will focus on revealing a comprehensive array of community assets that can strengthen the health and well-being of youth and community members, and how to make those assets accessible to youth and their families for BIPOC and other marginalized and oppressed community members.

### Lamoille Backpack Program

The Backpack Program provides backpacks filled with resources for school-aged youth in the community. The resources include school supplies, snacks and health supplies.

The intended result of this program is to help students be successful at school and to help them feel comfortable and confident as they start the new school year.

### **Green Mountain Technology & Career Center**

The Project Director is an Abenaki Community member who directs the “Circle of Courage” after-school cultural program for both Native and non-Native students in Swanton and Highgate, Vermont. The Educational Plan: Two hours of professional development via an in-person course at a designated school which provides teachers with a background on 13,000 years of Abenaki culture in the region. The course will also introduce teachers to decolonization theory, and cultural competency principles.

### **Lamoille Community House**

Access to healthcare, grocery shopping, employment opportunities, and support services are limited due to a severe lack of transportation for those in shelter who do not have vehicles. To approach the problem with an equity lens, we must do so from several angles. We have a three-sided approach to making sure people have access to resources once we move into our new, year-round shelter facility in the fall of 2023. Our approach includes: making sure we have space for service providers to come and meet with our guests on location; having proper technology for our guests to increase access to telehealth and other resources; and creating transportation options using electronic bikes (e-bikes).

### **Lamoille County Mental Health Services**

LCMHS will hire a Mental Health Crisis Specialist who will work out of the Morristown Police Department (MPD) and provide emergency behavioral health-related crisis services working toward de-escalating crisis situations with the MPD.

The primary goal is to divert mental health and or substance use incidents from criminal justice involvement and provide individuals with the services and supports they need to remain in their community and avoid hospitalization and/or incarceration. We want to intervene and minimize the use of force, trauma, and future crises.

### **Lamoille Restorative Center**

Build organizational capacity: Expand professional development and create new learning opportunities. The Creative Discourse Group (TCDG) conducted a thorough organizational audit and a final report, released last spring, illuminates clear pathways forward, including facilitated learning sessions for staff, board, and volunteers

### **Lamoille Union High School**

Intervention Pilot Plan Part 1: An Integrated Behavioral Health Clinician will come into our school early January and meet the youth from our Glow group briefly. Beginning late January 2023, they will start to meet with the Glow group once a month from 1:00 to 1:40pm on Fridays. They will structure the meetings around themes such as: Building trust and relationships, Understanding and nurturing relationships, What is consent? Understanding boundaries, expectations, and how to support one another in their individual journeys.

### **Lamoille South Unified Union**

Lamoille South Unified Union is committed to building an inclusive and equitable school culture. One way to achieve this is through a universal and tiered health curriculum that is co-created and co-facilitated by young people and adults to build awareness and address issues of equity, including: Mental Health, Bullying, Hazing and Harassment, Use of technology. Suicide Prevention, Sexual Abuse, Violence Prevention, Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention, Wellness Programing and First Aid, CPR & AED knowledge.

### **Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union**

OSSU identified a need to increase student access to comprehensive, inclusive, and equitable sexual health education. This intervention brings in a consulting health educator prepared with a Masters degree in Reproductive Justice and Sex Education. Teachers and staff will gain confidence with materials and methodologies to educate students about physical and emotional wellness, including a healthy understanding of sexuality.

### **United Way of Lamoille County**

This project will support UWLC staff and the newly hired full-time Mobile Rural Resource Navigator (MRRN) who is providing Lamoille County residents with full, supported access to available resources. This grant will enhance outreach efforts and UWLC's ability to be a physical hub in the center of Morrisville and support the purchase of I.T. hardware and the creation of a UWLC Resource Center, to be utilized by community members needing support. The equipment would include iPads, computers, headphones, hybrid meeting technology, MiFi devices, and ergonomic office equipment. The project also includes a bathroom renovation to create a public shower.

## **Public Health Topic Spotlight**



## Social Tinkering in Rutland County

By: Zyakkiriah Rhoden and Rutland Community Partners

In predominantly able-bodied, cisgender, straight, white spaces, the voices of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations are often overlooked, resulting in underrepresentation, discrimination, and barriers to service. In 2021, Rutland County had a population of approximately 60,591. Of that, 96.5% or 58,470 people identified as white, and 3.5%, or 2,121 individuals identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). From 2017-2021, 11.4%, or 6,907 residents under the age of 65 identified as living with a disability.<sup>1</sup> The recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) report from VT Department of Health found that in 2018 approximately 6%, or 2,000 individuals identified as LGBTQ+. Social Tinkering believes that health equity work must center these underserved and underrepresented voices to ensure that the work benefits them directly.<sup>2</sup>

Social Tinkering's mission is [to build thriving communities by empowering connections and growing happiness](#). Underlying this is their work to fight, heal, and prevent chronic loneliness. Their J.E.D.I. Movement (Justice. Equity. Diversity. Inclusion.) now rebranded as the Rutland Belonging Collective (RBC), works to achieve this by looking at chronic loneliness through a J.E.D.I. lens. RBC's Core Leadership Team and network of community partners coordinate to center underserved and underrepresented voices.<sup>3</sup>

Social Tinkering and the Vermont Community Health Equity Partnership's (VT CHEP) collaboration has provided significant technical, financial, and administrative support. This support provided eight area partners with funding for equity work, including Allen Street School, ARC Rutland Area, Come Alive Outside, Euphoric Hair

Experience, Rutland Area NAACP, Rutland County Pride, VT AthletaFit, and Vermont CARES. Social Tinkering will continue this work in 2023 through county-wide data collection on the intersections of DEI, chronic loneliness, and belonging and providing resources and equity education to area organizations and the community.

1. U.S. Census Bureau quickfacts: Rutland County, Vermont.  
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/rutlandcountyvermont>. Published 2021. Accessed March 3, 2023.
2. Behavioral risk factor surveillance system (BRFSS). Vermont Department of Health.  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/population-health-surveys-data/brfss>. Published February 28, 2023. Accessed March 3, 2023.
3. A human connection project. Social Tinkering. <https://www.socialtinkering.org/>. Published 2023. Accessed March 3, 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

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*We can't wait to be together again!*

## **The VT CHEP Spring Convening 2023**

April 12th and 13th at the Killington Grand Resort and Hotel

In-person and remote/hybrid options available

**Registration is now OPEN!**

Please check with your District Integrator about registering.

*Agenda to be shared soon!*

## **March Workshops**

*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.*

## *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



## Grassroots Fund

Groups doing local, grassroots work in New England, do NOT need to have formal tax status or a fiscal sponsor (only needs a bank account in the group's name), groups lead by young adults (ages 15-25).

Fund groups doing local, grassroots work in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont. Prioritize groups that are volunteer-driven or have no more than 2 full-time paid staff (80 hrs/week) and groups that have an approximate annual operating budget under \$175,000.

To help young leaders put their ideas surrounding community development into action. The Young Leaders grant program is geared towards groups led by young adults. The Grassroots Fund defines young adults as between the ages of 15 and 25 years old.

When evaluating youth leadership within applications, we are looking for projects in which young people are in a relationship to the project that goes beyond them being recipients of service. We look to see how their ideas and input are at the forefront of the project.

**Grants up to \$6,000**

**Round 2: Applications due third Tuesday in March and September**

Contact: [abby@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:abby@grassrootsfund.org) for more information or questions.

[Create an Account and Learn More!](#)



# Spark Connecting Community

Focuses on strengthening community connections that lead to action and impact.

The Spark program will accept applications from hyperlocal, place-based projects (applications from a single community or a few towns working in partnership in the same region) or statewide/regional projects that support a community of individuals with a shared identity or interest, such as a project supporting visual artists throughout the state.

This program will prioritize funding projects that:

- Increase Vermonters access to opportunity as outlined in our [four focus areas](#)
- Connect people with each other in deep and meaningful ways that are grounded in acts of generosity
- Connect people to the environment around them in ways that encourage stewardship and respect
- Increase opportunities for positive social interaction
- As part of a project budget, the Spark program will support stipends to individuals who otherwise would not be able to participate to ensure more inclusive community processes, programs, and/or events (ex. childcare support, stipends to individuals, or transportation).

**Grants \$500 - \$5,000**

**Round one: January 26 - March 7, 2023. Applications must be received by 5PM on Tuesday, March 7 to be considered. Applicants will be notified of grant decisions in May.**

**Round two: June 6 - July 18, 2023. Applications must be received by 5PM on Tuesday, July 18 to be considered. Applicants will be notified of grant decisions in September.**

Contact: [grants@vermontcf.org](mailto:grants@vermontcf.org) for more information or questions.

[How to Apply](#)

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## EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

# March is Women's History Month

## Women's History Month Events & Commentary

VT Commission on Women partner with the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) to honor Women's History Month (March) each year. Along with VHS, they also collaborate with Vermont Public Radio (VPR) to offer a corresponding-themed commentary series.

**Find historical articles on a variety of topics including**

Women of the Counterculture Movement in 1970s Vermont

Women of the Long Trail

Do We Still Need Women's History?

Women of Change: Making Strides in Women's Legal Rights in the 70s and 80s

[Learn More](#)



## SEVCA is Hiring!

**Planning and Communications- Administrator, Coordinator, or Specialist**

The primary responsibilities of this position will be to administer the projects of the planning, development, and communications department especially prioritizing those activities related to the coordination, administration, and support of the Community

Health Equity Partnership program in Springfield. The position is available at the level of Administrator, Coordinator, or Specialist.

Send letter of interest and/or resume and salary requirements to Carolyn Sweet, [csweet@sevca.org](mailto:csweet@sevca.org) or contact her if you have any questions. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

[Learn More](#)

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**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](#)

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[Register Here](#)

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Public Health  
Communications  
COLLABORATIVE

## When to Take an At-Home COVID Test

New resource outlining key scenarios and considerations for when you should take an at-home COVID-19 test.

*Resource*

[Download PDF](#)



## Beyond Equity: Unpacking Targeted Universalism with 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](#)



## Howard Center Annual Conference

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 8:30am-4:30pm**

*Virtual or In-person*

[Learn More and Register](#)



Vermont Community Leadership Network

## Who Can Help? Federal



## UMatter Suicide Prevention

## Funding Assistance and Support

**Friday, March 24, 2023 @ 10am-11:30am**

*Live Webinar*

Learn More and Register

## 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*

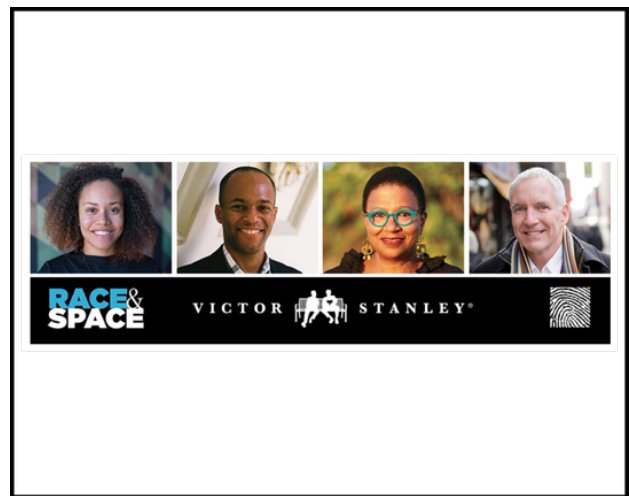
Register



## A to Z of Human Resources: Talent Management

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

*Live Webinar Series*



## Race and Space Conversations, III

**Tuesday, March 14th, 12pm**

*Live Webinar Series*

[Learn More and Register](#)

[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](#)

## Overcoming Baked-In Inequities and Promoting Health Equity in the Island Areas

The National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities grant has allowed the states and island areas to grow their health equity efforts. However, many health equity frameworks have been built with states' contexts in mind, and do not always translate to island areas' specific contexts.

*Article*

[Read Article](#)

# 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!](#)

## PAST VT CHEP NEWSLETTERS

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