



Blue Fund

Blue Fund Grant Summary

2018-2022 (updated 9/22)

2018 (\$2.7 million)

Community Connections of New York, Inc.

PEDALS: Southern Tier Expansion

\$224,699

To support expansion of Positive Emotional Development and Learning Skills (PEDALS) in the Southern Tier. This project will bring a proven model for improving social and emotional development in preschool-age children to an additional population in the region and will benefit approximately 380 children over the two-year funding period.

The Horizon Corporations

Training and Family Center

\$500,000

To support construction of the Training and Family Center, a new multi-purpose building that will provide a venue for advanced training for behavioral health workers, provide expanded and innovative programming for family members whose loved ones are in residential addiction treatment facilities, and develop a more robust after-care program for people successfully completing residential addiction treatment.

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Emergency medication-assisted treatment for opioid-use disorder

\$200,000

To support the expansion of emergency access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and rapid referral to long-term community treatment for patients with opioid-use disorder. With this project, Emergency Department staff can call a 24/7 hotline and schedule follow-up appointments at participating MAT clinics, and patients can choose from 64 weekly appointment slots at one of 27 Western New York substance-abuse treatment clinics. Clinics have agreed to reserve spots for patients in the program regardless of ability to pay.

Jericho Road Ministries

Medically oriented gym

\$303,279

To support the Medically Oriented Gym program in Jericho Road Ministries Community Fitness Center. The gym will address the lack of affordable, safe access to fitness facilities in Buffalo's East Side neighborhoods, work to decrease the effects of chronic disease, and aim to decrease health-care expenditures related to obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular conditions.

KaBOOM!

Great new places for active play

\$300,000

To support a community-built playground to give children equitable access to great play spaces. Two economically challenged Western New York communities, comprised of 5,000 children, will be playing more often and more actively. Volunteers, including BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York employees, will assemble play components, build decks, add landscaping, and create murals — making the playgrounds beautiful community gathering spaces.

Save the Michaels of the World, Inc.

Court to Treatment Transportation Program

\$100,000

To support the Court to Treatment Transportation Program, which transports individuals who are being sentenced to inpatient rehabilitation facilities — resulting in long-term recovery, reduced recidivism, and saved lives. In partnership with the New York State court system, Save the Michaels of the World will expand its work to 44 courts in Western New York.

Say Yes Buffalo

School-Based Health Home Care Management Program

\$298,848

To support a school-based health home-care management program that places Say Yes health home care managers in Buffalo Public schools to address the vast health needs of children. The pilot program will provide school-based comprehensive care coordination, health promotion, patient and family supports, and service referrals to the neediest students. These interventions will take a holistic view of children's health.

Visiting Nursing Association of Western New York

Nurse Residency Program

\$500,000

To launch a Nurse Residency Program that addresses the growing need for home-care nurses in Western New York. The VNA will hire from a pool of more than 500 local graduate nurses each year and effectively train and prepare them for a career in home care. Funds will also be used for skilled nurse mentor preceptors and upgrades to training equipment.

Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc.

DL&W multiuse trail and linear park

\$246,000

To support the design and implementation of the DL&W multi-use trail and linear park. The project will transform the abandoned DL&W rail corridor into a safe and accessible recreational asset connecting downtown Buffalo near Canalside to the Buffalo River at Riverbend, through the Old First Ward, Perry, and Valley neighborhoods. The inspiring community gathering place will be the focal point of a revitalized, healthy community and restored natural ecosystem. As a welcoming space for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, it will improve the physical and mental health for youth, residents, and visitors.

2019 (\$2.5 million)

Boys & Girls Clubs Collaborative of Western New York

Fearless Fridays

\$300,000

To support Fearless Fridays. The Healthy Kids Program will offer classroom and physical activities throughout the day. Each club will learn indoor farming through building and maintaining a tower garden — a vertical growing system that grows herbs, vegetables, and flowers in less than three square feet. Children will also take part in food prep, proper handling of produce, and healthy cooking.

Compeer Buffalo

Compeer Maryvale Leaders

\$210,000

To support Compeer Maryvale Leaders. AmeriCorps members will provide mental wellness mentoring in the Maryvale School District. In one-on-one sessions, students will develop an action plan using the Casey Life Skills Assessment. This approach leads to increased confidence and trust, fostering talk about mental health, and ways to improve well-being. Compeer will also provide trainings to parents and offer mental health first-aid training to district teachers and staff.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County

Buffalo Healthy Corner Store Initiative

\$300,000

To support the Buffalo Healthy Corner Store Initiative. The Buffalo Healthy Corner Store Initiative will address limited healthy food access in underserved communities and neighborhoods in the City of Buffalo by working with corner store owners and consumers to improve diet-related behaviors and outcomes. A youth program in partnership with Say Yes Buffalo will create messaging around healthy snacking and the importance of breakfast.

Council on Addiction Recovery Services, Inc.

Recovery Coach Expansion Project

\$150,000

To support the Recovery Coach Expansion Project. This program will expand the reach of recovery coaches to more strongly address substance-use disorder. Participants will begin their journey as a paid intern and transition to a peer recovery coach through a training and certification process. The initiative will result in an increase in peer recovery coaches that can transport clients to appointments or court dates.

Directions in Independent Living, Inc.

Mobile Behavioral Health Project

\$287,000

To support a behavioral health van that will provide supportive services to youth, young adults, and families living in isolated rural communities and underserved urban neighborhoods in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. The program will provide direct services, workshops, peer support, and highly focused social and recreational activities to these communities with the goal of connecting youth and families facing behavioral health challenges.

Gateway Longview

School Mental Health Outpatient Clinic & Training

\$150,000

Gateway Longview, in collaboration with UBMD Psychiatry and Niagara Falls City School District, will open satellite outpatient mental health clinics embedded within four Niagara Falls elementary schools. These clinics will eliminate the transportation barrier to treatment while providing therapy to individuals, groups, and families. Administrators and teachers will also have access to behavioral health training.

Gerard Place

Gerard Place Workforce Development Collaborative

\$274,000

This program will recruit and train qualified candidates for jobs in health care careers including certified nurse assistants, home health aides, and licensed practical nurses. The goal is to reduce the impact of poverty and unemployment in the Bailey-Delavan neighborhood. Support services for early childhood education, high school equivalency certification, soft skill development, and financial management will be offered as well.

Kids Escaping Drugs

Face2Face Program Expansion

\$156,000

This initiative will focus on expanding the scope and reach of vaping education for area middle and high school students, as well as parents. Other resources will include webinars and virtual programming focused on vaping. Curriculum for Face2Face Summer Camp will also be developed. Funding will be used to hire new staff, create promotional materials, and purchase equipment.

Massachusetts Avenue Project

Growing Green

\$100,000

This program will expand access to healthy food in the City of Buffalo through growing, cooking, and nutrition education opportunities. Food sold at market sites will be equipped to take food stamps; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits; and Double Up Food Bucks. The program will continue to work with the Buffalo Public School District to support increased local food procurement in schools.

Mental Health Advocates of Western New York

Youth Peer Advocates

\$240,000

This initiative will expand the current Youth Peer Advocates Program to assist middle and high school students in recognizing and addressing mental health challenges. Youth peer advocates will facilitate presentations on mental health in schools, provide various resources, identify student mental health champions at each school, facilitate peer-led support groups in high schools, and more.

Population Health Collaborative

Live Well WNY

\$273,000

The 3-4-50 model explains that three behaviors (lack of exercise, poor diet, and tobacco use) lead to four diseases (cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and lung disease) that contribute to over 50% of all deaths. Funding for this program will strengthen partnerships, enhance collaboration, and increase visibility to drive change. Specific activities will include community engagement, facilitated conversations, and research.

Willie Hutch Jones Educational & Sports Programs

Team Hutch ESL Education & Sports Initiative

\$100,000

English as a second language (ESL) professionals will educate students on the benefits of proper health and fitness lifestyles in their native languages. The initiative will develop student recruitment aids and replicate successful current programming including Math Club, STEAM Camp for Girls, STEAM activities, soccer, chess, dance, tennis, golf, basketball, swimming, volleyball, football, and crew.

2020 (\$1.7 million)

WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

\$1,000,000

The WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund supports nonprofits addressing immediate in the areas of food, housing, healthcare, childcare, mental health, transportation, and other emergency services. As of December 2020, the Fund has awarded a total of \$7.8 million in grants to 400+ nonprofit organizations serving all eight counties of Western New York.

Blue Fund Regional Microgrant Program

\$100,000

To rapidly deploy resources to small organizations that provide hands-on assistance to community members in all eight counties of WNY. Intermediary organizations in each county, recognized as trusted voices and partners, identified 75 microgrant recipients for awards that ranged from \$500 - \$2,500.

Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Buffalo Peacemakers HEAT Program

\$50,000

To support the Buffalo Peacemakers HEAT Program (Health, Empowerment, Altitude, and Teamwork). The program will use exercise and restorative learning circles to improve physical and mental health in the vulnerable, hard to reach population of at-risk minority youth by building habits of physical activity, healthy eating, and attaining positive goals.

Buffalo Center for Health Equity

Improving Community Health through Healthy Eating

\$125,000

The program aims to shift the health curve of pre-diabetics and early diabetics through a dietary intervention that will transform the eating habits of the participants and their families living in Buffalo's least healthiest zip codes.

Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network

Healthy Families Buffalo

\$100,000

The program is an evidence based voluntary home visiting model designed to provide services to families that begins prenatally or at birth and continues through age 5. While pregnant, clients receive education on prenatal care. After the baby's birth, home visits center around promoting parent-child attachment to achieve the program's mission of preventing child abuse, neglect and other adverse childhood outcomes.

Harmonia Collaborative Care

TeleMental Health Services

\$100,000

The program will assess community assets and needs, identify partners and collaborators, and initiate a program which increases access to mental health and telemental health services for rural and Native Americans ages 13 and up.

Harmonia will also link clients in need to Health Home and other support services.

Project Play Western New York

PlayPacks for Buffalo Public School Students

\$25,000

BlueCross BlueShield partnered with the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Project Play WNY and The Teachers Desk to distribute 12,100 PlayPacks to Buffalo Public Schools to help keep students active as they adapt to remote learning.

Say Yes Buffalo

Expansion of Health Home Care Coordination Program

\$100,000

To expand and enhance the organization's successful Health Home Care Coordination program, launched in 2018 with support from Blue Fund. The program provides school-based comprehensive care coordination, health promotion, patient and family support and service referrals to local students in need.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara

Y on the Fly

\$100,000

The program is a mobile YMCA that will deliver fun physical fitness activities, enrichment experiences including STEM and literacy, and nutritious meals to families living in neighborhoods where food insecurity and a lack of youth development and wellness resources are most prevalent. This year-round program will be offered at indoor and outdoor sites in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Lackawanna.

2021 (\$4,820,000)

Bitwise Impact

Comprehensive workforce training and apprenticeship program

\$500,000

To bring a national workforce training program to Buffalo. The unique program will support a comprehensive workforce training and apprenticeship program in tech related fields while removing barriers to entry caused by poverty and bias.

Buffalo Center for Health Equity

Organizational capacity building and targeted pilot projects

\$1.5 million

To support organizational capacity building and programs targeting communities with the greatest health disparities, including a blood- pressure control pilot project in partnership with the American Medical Association.

Buffalo Go Green

Fresh Take Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities Program

\$370,000

To deliver healthy, culturally appropriate meals and offer cooking demonstrations to Buffalo residents who reside in underserved areas through a new mobile-unit. The initiative also includes health and wellness programming to be piloted at select Buffalo East Side churches and throughout the community.

Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

Food as Medicine for Clinicians and Community Members Research Study

\$240,000

The project will create a replicable model of clinical-community partnerships that deliver medically tailored meals with hands-on nutrition education and social supports to clinicians and patients in the Medical Campus neighborhood, resulting in significantly improved health indicators, enhanced quality of life, and reduced health care utilization.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County

Farmacy Veggie Rx Program and Mobile Market

\$264,000

The program will grow and develop Cornell Cooperative Extension's current Farmacy Veggie Prescription program, along with the Veggie Van mobile farmers market to increase food access and equity in Niagara County.

The Children's Hospital of Buffalo Foundation

Racial equity in health care at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital

\$175,000

The program will develop and implement diversity, equity, and inclusion workforce development to provide more equitable care that improves maternity patient outcomes, addresses social determinants of health, and creates a more inclusive and equitable workplace.

Crisis Services

Crisis Hotline Text and Chat Expansion

\$290,000

The program will expand the 24-hour Crisis Hotline Program to include chat and text functionality, which provides a cost-free option for receiving crisis intervention that is accessible and ensures user privacy. This functionality will increase access to direct services for individuals in crisis.

FeedMore WNY

Food for Kids Initiative

\$200,000

The project encompasses four programs that provide emergency assistance and food access services: Baby Need Program, Back Pack Program, School Pantry Program, and the Kids in the Kitchen Program to meet the food needs of children from infancy through young adulthood.

Healthy Community Alliance

Strong Starts Chautauqua

\$240,000

The program will advance the health and development of Chautauqua children aged birth to age five, particularly the high percentage who experience early life trauma, poverty, and prenatal substance exposure through an evidence-based Screening, Assessment, Referral & Treatment (SART) model.

Neighborhood Health Center

Population Health Care Management at NHC Riverway

\$250,000

The project will co-locate the Behavioral Health Department, Community Health Workers, and Wellness Department in a new location at 1569 Niagara Street in Buffalo to expand the population health care management model and better serve high-risk patients.

Niagara Falls Housing Authority

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training

\$226,000

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority will develop and implement a CNA Training class with wraparound social supports that provides opportunities for residents and creates more health care workers in the Buffalo-Niagara region.

Project Stork

Happy Moms, Healthy Babies

\$100,000

The program provides direct support for low-income families with maternal mental health concerns, prenatal and postpartum transportation barriers, and supplemental basic needs that positively impact the wellbeing of infants and toddlers with the household.

Spectrum Health & Human Services

Improving Social Determinants of Health Through Crisis Stabilization Services

\$165,000

The project will provide Crisis Stabilization Services to individuals needing behavioral health services including medication assisted treatment, psychiatric services, ancillary withdrawal services, and substance use disorder outpatient services integrated with Recovery Options Made Easy's respite services.

United Memorial Medical Center

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Training

\$200,000

The project will provide Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) training to low-income and rural residents of Genesee County. This initiative has the potential to lift families out of poverty and fill nursing workforce gaps at United Memorial Medical Center and across Western New York.

WNY Women's Foundation

Buffalo Women's Economic Mobility Hub

\$100,000

The program moves single mothers and their children out of poverty into high-demand, high-wage family-sustaining healthcare jobs by introducing supports for single moms' unique needs into healthcare workforce training programs.

2022 (\$3,675,000)

Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology

Serving the Community: BCAT's Adult Workforce Training in High-Demand Allied Health Professions

\$150,000

Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT) will train 70-75 unemployed or underemployed adults to secure careers with family-sustaining wages in six tuition-free allied health classes that include rigorous curriculum, textbooks/study modules, certification exams, workforce readiness, wraparound retention, and employment services.

Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers

Healthy Kids Program

\$125,000

Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers will implement an after-school and summer program targeting inner city, low-income youth by providing nutrition instruction and health & fitness options to help children embark upon a healthy lifestyle.

Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network, Inc.

Community Health Worker Program

\$150,000

The enhancement of the Community Health Worker Program will reduce risk factors and empower families by creating a timeline that will incorporate preventive measures & education, implementing utilization of early detection curricula, and a long-term plan to address environmental instability.

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee

Fresh Food Rx: Stone Soup Success

\$250,000

Community Action Orleans Genesee, in collaboration with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, will implement a county-wide nutritional health program providing low-income families with kitchen kits, nutritional education, and vouchers to redeem on locally grown produce.

Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.

Community Health Center of Lockport

\$250,000

The project will expand access to comprehensive, affordable health care, with a focus on integrating behavioral health services to address the unmet needs of 6,000 children and adults annually, targeting outreach to the low-income population in the city of Lockport.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County

Healthy Community Store Initiative

\$100,000

Broadening the focus of the successful Healthy Corner Store Initiative to include the surrounding community, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County will empower and educate youth, adults, and families in under-resourced neighborhoods about healthier food options and elevate healthy food access in designated local Healthy Community Store Initiative stores and communities.

D'Youville University

Pathways Program: Building Opportunity through Healthcare Workforce Training

\$250,000

The Pathways Program is a healthcare workforce training initiative offered to BIPOC and/or economically disadvantaged populations, who have historically been excluded from educational and financial opportunity, which may have an impact on overall health and well-being.

Endeavor Health Services

Expanding Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment in East Buffalo

\$250,000

Endeavor Health Services will renovate space to provide outpatient behavioral health services for mental health and substance use at the Jesse Nash Health Center located at 608 William Street in East Buffalo.

Genesee/Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.

Case Management= Better Substance Use Disorder Care in Genesee and Orleans Counties

\$200,000

The project will expand case management and extend transportation coordination and housing for people with substance use disorder in Genesee and Orleans Counties, prioritizing those with co-occurring disorders, justice system involvement, low income, children, and the historically marginalized.

Gerard Place

Healthy Mom and Baby Club

\$150,000

Gerard Place will implement the Healthy Mom and Baby Club, which provides education and support to pregnant women of color in Buffalo. The program will help mothers-to-be and new mothers living in under-resourced communities to care for themselves and, as a result, increasing the likelihood that their babies will be born at healthy weights.

Groundwork Buffalo, Inc.

East Side Rising

\$100,000

This project will combat food insecurity, vacant lots, and brownfields in East Buffalo through education and community garden events.

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Katherine Massey Memorial Scholarship

\$100,000

The Katherine “Kat” Massey Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating Buffalo Public School high student from East Buffalo enrolled in undergraduate studies.

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

Every Woman and Child Counts

\$200,000

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center will establish the first community-based doula program in the City of Niagara Falls that provides doula services in combination with social determinant of health strategies to combat disparities and improve birth outcomes and maternal health.

Open Space Institute Land Trust

Getting Kids Moving: The Greening of Roosevelt Park with Healthy Outdoor Recreational Opportunities

\$250,000

The project will create, design, and build much-needed green play spaces in Buffalo’s Roosevelt Park providing healthy recreation, exercise, and relaxation, to children and community residents who currently do not have access to the benefits of a well-designed, community-focused green and open space.

Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy

The Play Garden at Ralph Wilson Park: Active Imaginative Play on Buffalo’s Waterfront

\$250,000

The Play Garden is a community-driven initiative integral to the transformation of Ralph Wilson Park. The project will create a destination playground for active-imaginative play while promoting a strong connection with Buffalo.

St. Bonaventure University

School of Health Professions

\$250,000

Support for the renovation of Francis Hall to house the School of Health Professions. Includes a 3,000-square-foot physical diagnosis lab with three exam rooms, 20 clinic exam tables, and inpatient, hospital-style beds. Occupational therapy and physical therapy labs will offer care-based learning opportunities in varied settings.

The Jacobs Institute Inc.

WNY Health Disparities in Stroke Outcomes: Investigating Root Cause to Tailor Innovative Solutions

\$150,000

With collaborators from UB and Kaleida Health, the Jacobs Institute is investigating health disparities surrounding stroke intervention and outcomes. The project will research this line of inquiry and engage with the community based on the results.

Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc.

Increasing Healthy Food Access for Immigrant, Refugee, and BIPOC Children in Western New York
\$300,000

WNY Land Conservancy and Providence Farm Collective will collaborate to purchase a 37-acre farm where nearly 300 refugee, immigrant, and Black farmers grow healthy food for their communities; make the farm sustainable; and increase access to healthy food and employment for youth.

WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund: Moving Forward Together Phase 2

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
\$200,000

The WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund supports nonprofits addressing immediate in the areas of food, housing, healthcare, childcare, mental health, transportation, and other emergency services.