2015-2016 United Way of Central Massachusetts
Program Descriptions and Grant Amounts

The agencies and programs listed below make up the approximately $3 million in program funding that United Way granted in central Massachusetts this year. You will notice that each of the programs are working to provide services in one or more of the three basic building blocks for a good life: EDUCATION, HEALTH, and FAMILY STABILITY; our Women’s Initiative focusing on adolescent girls; or are helping the most vulnerable among us with immediate needs such as food, housing and crisis intervention through our Safety Net funding. In total, United Way of Central Massachusetts will invest nearly $5.2 million in the community this year, through these and dozens of other initiatives.

African Community Education Program (ACE)

Express Yourself Program (Women’s Initiative) $19,600

To expand and enhance the Express Yourself (EY) Program to provide additional comprehensive psychosocial support to female students ages 10-14, offering a safe space for students to explore topics ranging from health and hygiene, culture, identity and post-secondary options. While the topics and skills covered in our EY Program are important for any child, they are especially vital for these students. Their limited knowledge of US systems, lack of emotional literacy, language barriers, education gaps, and trauma issues present huge obstacles in their development into healthy, safe and confident youth and put them at a greater risk of being affected by violence and poverty.

African Community Education Program (ACE)

ACE After School Program (C3) $35,000

The ACE After School Program provides academic and psycho-social support to African refugee and immigrant student in the 5th through 12th grades. The program provides tutoring, enrichment and leadership workshops, and extracurricular activities. The program provides academic and psycho-social support to help students transition into Worcester Public Schools, catch up to grade level, and get on track to graduate high school.

American Red Cross of Central Massachusetts

American Red Cross Stabilization Program (Safety Net) $100,000

The Disaster Relief Services program immediately improves the quality of life for those impacted by disasters by addressing basic human needs - food, clothing, shelter, and mental health counseling. The goal following a disaster is to stabilize the lives of individuals and families by accelerating the recovery process.

Ascentria Care Alliance (formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England, Inc.)

Services for New Americans Employment & Education (C3) $35,000

This program will increase access to English for Speakers of Other Languages classes for recent immigrants; and increase access for low-income families on education about financial literacy, banking, etc. Financial literacy topics will be woven into the ESOL curriculum for the target audience. Additionally, program participants will benefit from increased access to workforce training programs and/or career development/career advancement services all located in the same site.

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Ascentria Care Alliance (formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England, Inc.)

Services for New Americans Case Management (Safety Net) $35,000

This program will serve 50 families/households at risk of eviction or who have been evicted and lost their housing to stabilize their housing situation and/or rapidly re-house them in affordable permanent housing. In addition, the program will provide education and information to 25 landlords to raise awareness of ethnic populations and cultural differences so that misunderstandings and potential evictions are avoided and prevented.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MA/Metrowest

Making a BIG Difference in Worcester (C3) $90,000

Through participation in professionally-supported and developed mentoring relationships, at-risk youth in the Worcester area develop critical competencies they need to become healthy, caring, and responsible adults. To reach the most children in need, these services are provided at local schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, and in the community.

Boys and Girls Club of Worcester

Girls’ Voice (Women’s Initiative) $30,000

The Girls Voice program combines two best practice curricula - SMART Girls and Girls Circle - with a wide variety of girls-only programming that includes fitness, yoga, self-defense, dance, music, and drama. The programming topics are chosen and were suggested by girls in the program.

Boys and Girls Club of Worcester

Prevention/Intervention (Safety Net) $10,500

Eighty percent of the participants at the Main South Clubhouse are living below the poverty line, and over 370 members are from single-parent homes. This program provides club members the emotional, financial, and moral support to overcome their surroundings. To meet this need, the Clinical Department provides the needed support, including individual and family counseling, as well as food and financial support.

Catholic Charities

Emergency Stabilization (Safety Net) $41,000

This program helps people in crisis: preventing hunger, homelessness, destabilization, and despair. The program provides food, clothing, personal items, infant supplies, as well as financial assistance with rent, mortgages, utilities, transportation, prescription assistance, and other basic needs as resources allow. The primary program goals are to help stabilize the crisis situation, promote self-sufficiency, and foster hope.

Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance

Power Program (C3) $50,000

The POWER Program (Personal Opportunities for Work, Education, & Renewal) provides education and training for homeless families so they can increase their employment options and/or income to become stabilized. Most participants are able to secure a full or part-time job within one year.

Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance

Housing Counseling and Homelessness Prevention (Safety Net) $100,000

Housing Counseling provides education, tools, and supports to stabilize families and individuals in safe, affordable housing to prevent homelessness and promote long-term stability housing stability. The Housing Counseling program is a key component of local and statewide plans to reduce and eventually eliminate
homelessness through stabilizing families in their housing using a variety of strategies including the provision of emergency cash assistance, counseling, and landlord/tenant mediation services.

**Children's Friend, Inc.**

**The Ellsworth Child and Family Counseling Program (Safety Net) $20,000**

The Ellsworth Child and Family Mental Health Clinic offers outpatient mental health services to children, adolescents, and their families. The target program utilizes individual therapy, group therapy, telephone consultation, and team meetings to provide a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) approach to adolescent girls ages 13 to 19 who have a history of self-injury (e.g. cutting or burning) or suicidal thoughts/attempts. The goal of this program is to eliminate suicidal ideation and self-injurious behaviors in these adolescent girls to move them from a crisis situation to one of stability.

**Clark University**

**All Kinds of Girls (Women’s Initiative) $13,900**

All Kinds of Girls is a Saturday program for Worcester girls aged nine to twelve, run by mentors at Clark University. The program teaches adolescent girls self-esteem as a powerful mode of prevention against troubled and violent behavior. The program focuses on encouraging healthy lifestyles, supporting healthy relationships, promoting positive behavior, and enhancing peer leadership in girls.

**Community Healthlink, Inc.**

**Support for Success: School Based Mental Health Services (C3) $73,000**

This program provides on-site clinical mental health services to at-risk youth through partnerships at 19 schools in central MA. This funding will provide ongoing consultation to school teams and staff, parent training and outreach, as well as treatment service for youth. Students engaged in these services demonstrate improvement in mental health status, school attendance, and academic behavior.

**Community Healthlink, Inc.**

**Together For Kids (C3) $80,000**

Together For Kids (TFK), a broad-based community Coalition comprised of over 30 childcare, health care, child welfare, and social service agencies, is committed to promoting the social-emotional well-being and general health of young children and families in central MA and throughout the Commonwealth. Through a comprehensive model of mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention services, TFK assists parents and educators to understand and appropriately respond to challenging behavior in young children, thus preventing early childhood expulsion.

**Community Healthlink, Inc.**

**Emergency and Medical Respite Bed Program (Safety Net) $47,000**

Community Healthlink’s (CHL) Medical Respite Program provides 24/7 care for homeless individuals discharged from area hospitals, as they recover from illness or injury. The co-located Emergency Assistance beds provide short-term stabilization for homeless individuals who are in crisis or are too vulnerable for other traditional homeless services.

**Community Legal Aid (Formerly Legal Assistance Corp. of Central Mass.)**

**Legal Advocacy and Protection Program (Safety Net) $82,500**

The Legal Advocacy and Protection Program (LAPP) provides services that will enforce the legal rights of low-income and elderly families and individuals who need the protection of the legal system to remain safe or to
gain access to the shelter and benefits programs that will stabilize their lives. Through its work, LAPP eliminates barriers to rights guaranteed by state and federal law by ensuring that agencies administering benefit programs follow the law, and by ensuring that courts apply the law correctly.

**Dismas House**

**Case Management** (Safety Net) $43,000

Dismas House provides housing and supportive services to homeless former prisoners in greater Worcester. Their case management services pull offenders away from homelessness and a poor return to Worcester, and instead directs them to a constellation of support that begins “behind the walls” and extends beyond housing to include employment, recovery, family reunification, healthcare, and aftercare.

**Elder Services of Worcester Area**

**Money Management** (Safety Net) $9,000

The Money Management Program provides financial stability and freedom from financial exploitation for elders living in Worcester and surrounding towns. This is accomplished through two components, Bill Payer and Representative Payee. The goal of the program is financial stability - allowing an elder to remain in their own home as long as possible.

**Elder Services of Worcester Area**

**Nutrition Program** (Safety Net) $43,000

The Nutrition Program addresses multiple problems faced by elders- ranging from poor nutrition and food insecurity, to chronic disease and social isolation. Nutrition services and meals are a vital support that enables many elders to live in the community independently. The Meals-on-Wheels Program offers reassurance to its consumers and their families that someone is checking on their well-being; while the congregate dining program offers opportunities for socialization, recreation, and educational programming.

**Elm Park Center for Early Childhood Education**

**Elm Park Children's Program** (C3) $16,730

The Elm Park Center Children’s Program will implement new program strategies to teach positive nutritional habits and include daily physical activity, including swimming, Double-Dutch, and walking clubs for the children enrolled in each of their centers. Parents will also be encouraged to take part in “Cooking Matters” classes, and workshops on physical fitness and nutrition.

**Family Health Center of Worcester, Inc.**

**Positive Directions!** (C3) $70,000

Positive Directions! is a program aimed at combating the high school drop-out problem at South High. A highly collaborative, case manager-driven program, it targets 9th graders at risk for dropping out due to absenteeism, school failure, and mental and behavioral health needs. The program builds on each student's and their family's strengths and supports both student and family by providing needed services, engaging the student and family in their school, and connecting at-risk students with caring trained adults.

**Family Services of Central Massachusetts**

**Summer Literacy Initiative** (C3) $60,000

This program will expand this successful program for children ages 5-9 enrolled in licensed summer camp programs. The proposed expansion will implement the program in 1-2 additional sites providing summer and afterschool programming that intentionally include literacy activities, so that the children in these programs will...
have the benefit of this approach year-round. To date this model has prevented summer learning loss in over 80 percent of the program participants.

**Friendly House, Inc.**  
**Social Service Program (Safety Net)**  
$56,000

A social service program providing crisis intervention, financial and legal protective services, shelter and housing services, and emergency food to families with the goal of stabilizing the family.

**Girls Incorporated of Worcester**  
**Comprehensive K-12 Enrichment and Academic Enhancement for Abby Kelly Foster Charter School (C3)**  
$46,000

This program works with the school to identify at-risk girls, and involves them in a collaborative enrichment program with UMass Medical School Regional Science Resource Center, WPI Office of Women’s Program, and Girl’s, Inc directed at math, science, health, and financial literacy. The program is offered on-site at the school, eliminating the barrier of transportation that frequently prevents participation.

**Girls Incorporated of Worcester**  
**Dear World:Voices of Worcester Girls (Women’s Initiative)**  
$32,000

An expressive arts and violence prevention program for girls ages 11 to 18. This skills-based experiential program builds upon the national Girls Inc. Dear World public education campaign, and incorporates components of the evidence based violence prevention programs, Action for Safety and Living Safe & Strong. Program participants are empowered to explore the impact of bullying, violence against women and girls, racism, religious intolerance, and gender stereotypes. Through a variety of expressive arts, girls have an opportunity to educate themselves and the broader community on issues of violence and promote healthy relationships.

**Guild of St. Agnes**  
**Infant-Toddler Early Education & Care (C3)**  
$30,000

In Worcester, as well as other parts of the Commonwealth, the demand for center-based infant/toddler care far exceeds the availability. This proposal is to enable the Guild of St. Agnes to continue operating its high-quality, center-based infant and toddler education and care program at its Granite Street site. Research has shown that high-quality child care has the strongest effects on economically disadvantaged and at risk children.

**Latino Education Institute (LEI)**  
**Club E (C3)**  
$39,000

Club Educación (Club E), provides expanded workforce development and promotes positive health and nutrition outcomes to 300 under-served immigrant parents and helps strengthen their long-term future through the provision of: (1) ESL classes that are intensive, academically rigorous and personally supportive; (2) Family Academies highlighting health literacy and nutrition, and (3) a workforce development component focusing on career exploration and preparedness. This strategy responds to the urgent need to decrease poverty among the 18% of Worcester residents whom are Latino. Club E seeks to increase earning power while ameliorating the negative impacts of poverty related to health.

**Latino Education Institute (LEI)**  
**Innovative Services for Latino Students (ISLA) (C3)**  
$31,000

This program targets Latino students at Goddard Elementary School in grades 3 through 6 and their families. Parents of these students will be able to access free ESL programs at Worcester State University, as well as

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parent academies on the weekends that offer parents information and resources on taking charge of family health matters such as nutrition and exercise, and creating healthy family environments. Students in the program receive mentoring, afterschool homework help, and additional instruction in one of the following areas each day: literacy, math, arts & culture, and health.

**Latino Education Institute (LEI)**

**Latina Achievers in Search of Success (LASOS) (Women’s Initiative)** $41,514

LASOS is a youth development program that employs cultural strengths to provide Latina middle-school girls with strategies to achieve healthy relationships and behavior. Program components include violence prevention, creative expression, self-esteem, leadership development, career exploration, parental involvement, healthy lifestyles, and conflict resolution.

**LUK Crisis Center, Inc.**

**Project Shine (Women’s Initiative)** $15,929

Leadership development program piloted with middle-school girls from the Quabbin Regional School District. Uses two evidence-based models, Girls Circle and Safe Dates, as well as experiential learning activities to promote healthy relationships and positive behaviors in girls. The program will expand to offer this curriculum to middle-school girls in the Wachusett Regional School district (two additional middle schools) during the school day for the 2012-13 academic year.

**Massachusetts Educational and Career Opportunities, Inc.**

**Collegiate Success Institute – CSI Worcester (C3)** $40,000

In partnership with the Worcester Public Schools, local colleges and universities, and concerned leaders from the local business community, CSI Worcester was designed to serve as an intensive experience for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students. These are students who are in the "academic middle" and may not necessarily aspire to college but do show strong academic potential. CSI pairs students with both corporate and college mentors to give them a sense of the college experience, demystify the college application process, and help them learn about opportunities for a successful career in today's global economy.

**Massachusetts Educational and Career Opportunities, Inc.**

**Teen Parent Program (C3)** $42,000

MassEdCO will employ an Education Advocate, four days/week for six months, February to June and September. The EA will work solely with identified pregnant/partning teen mothers who are enrolled in, or recently dropped out of the five WPS high Schools including Burncoat, South, North, Doherty, and WTHS. This program will serve 50 students. During the summer months of July and August, the EA will work two days a week for eight weeks. Participants will receive academic guidance and support as well as referrals for other services.

**Nativity School of Worcester**

**Graduate Support Program (C3)** $30,000

The Graduate Support Program at Nativity School of Worcester tracks and mentors Nativity graduates who are in high school and their first year of college, ensuring that Nativity graduates not only complete their secondary education, but excel in high school and successfully transition to college. Staff work closely with graduates to identify and resolve problems that could otherwise lead to a student failing to complete high school. In addition to academic support, students are also encouraged to join at least on extra-curricular activity, and to take on leadership roles within their high school community.
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.

**Emergency Infant Supply Program (Safety Net)**  
$34,500

Pernet provides comprehensive health, social, and educational services to families living in the Worcester area who are marginalized by poverty. The Emergency Assistance Program operates a food and infant supply pantry that provides clients with enough food, baby formula, cereal, and diapers to last a few days. At the same time, families are assessed for other needs and risk factors; assisted with food stamp applications; given other referrals; and counseled as to available supports that may be needed, with the goal to help transition clients into becoming self-sufficient.

Rainbow Child Development Center

**Rainbow's Preschool (C3)**  
$34,300

Rainbow Child Development Center’s licensed and nationally accredited Preschool Program serves 64 children, ages 2.9-6, in 4 classrooms. The program’s curriculum is interactive and child-centered, offering each child the chance to explore and learn in a supportive non-judgmental forum. Speech development therapy, play therapy, assessments, and individual and group counseling are provided on site. Two teachers, aided by interns and volunteers, direct each classroom. Breakfast, lunch, and snack are provided as well as transportation for children whose families are unable to transport their child.

Rainbow Child Development Center

**Rainbow's School Age Program (C3)**  
$14,700

Rainbow's Program provides 52 week care, education & therapeutic services to children ages 5-13 in four program settings: Belmont Community School, City View School, 10 Edward Street & summer camp located at Treasure Valley. The program focus is to provide academic assistance, recreational activities, social/emotional guidance, and family support.

Regional Environmental Council, Inc.

**Food Justice Program (C3)**  
$56,000

The Food Justice Program of the Regional Environmental Council addresses the issue of community food insecurity and the lack of nutritious fresh foods in many of the city’s neighborhoods. The program provides community and school gardens, farmer’s markets, cooking classes, and youth programming centered around urban agricultural programs.

Seven Hills Family Services

**Just Us Girls (Women’s Initiative)**  
$17,434

“Just Us Girls” is a unique social skills opportunity for girls with special needs who have not been successful in forming real friendships, mostly in part because of their disabilities. Girls with special needs from local middle schools will participate, as well as typical peers who will serve as role models and communication partners. The program will target the development of self-determination skills, with particular goals around communicating more effectively, making good choices, learning about community resources, personal safety skills, and developing friendship skills. A concurrent group for parents will be facilitated by a trained family support specialist.

South Middlesex Opportunity Council

**Greater Worcester Housing Connection (Safety Net)**  
$100,000

The Greater Worcester Housing Connection (GWHC) provides housing and supportive services to homeless individuals in the Worcester region towards the community goal of ending homelessness. In concert with the

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City's Plan to End Homelessness, the GWHC provides emergency housing triage and assessment services along with short-term temporary and permanent housing solutions. In addition to meeting an individual’s immediate housing needs, the program provides services and linkages to resources that include employment, health and behavioral health, education and income maximization opportunities delivered in an individualized approach toward the goal of enhanced self-sufficiency.

**Southeast Asian Coalition**

**Youth Women – Healthy Choices (Women’s Initiative) $14,025**

The Youth Effect Girls Only Programming is a pilot gender-specific program that targets girls between the ages of 12-15 years, and has a focus on violence prevention and group support from their peers and role modeling and guidance from their staff. The program will utilize the Safe Dates curriculum, which involves the girls themselves, and also uses parent letters and brochures, which provide information about resources for dealing with teen dating abuse. By having culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate staff, this family outreach can be tailored to the needs of the SEA population. The vast majority of SEA immigrants and refugees (the girls’ parents) have no frame of reference regarding what are expected dating norms in an American society. Outreach to parents is critical to the success of the program - engaging them in breaking the cycle of intimate partner violence within their community.

**Straight Ahead Ministries, Inc.**

**Worcester Youth Re-entry Program (C3) $40,000**

The Worcester Youth Re-entry Project (WYRP) provides an intense counter-offensive to criminal and gang involvement in Worcester. It serves juvenile offenders returning to the community through a set of peer and adult mentoring relationships, a comprehensive set of activities, educational and service opportunities, and many resources provided by project partners. One major piece of the WYRP is the Straight2Work program (S2W). S2W is a 9-month vocational training that prepares youth and young adults for permanent employment in the community and for self-sufficiency. After 30 hours of classroom instruction, youth move into a 28-week internship in one of three S2W training businesses - Straight Up Cafe, Straight Up Catering, and The New You thrift store. The goal of our Straight2Work program is to provide the life skills, character development and job readiness necessary for our youth to find meaningful work and become positive and productive members of the community.

**The Bridge of Central Massachusetts**

**Safe Homes (C3) $45,000**

Safe Homes serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender youth (LGBTQ) and their allies in Worcester and surrounding towns. This grant will increase the graduation rate of at risk youth ages 13 through 19 by providing key supports, education, counseling, and an environment of acceptance, in collaboration with the YouthConnect Worcester network of agencies. Many of the youth experience challenges in school, at home, and in the community. The program provides food, substantive educational programming, crisis support counseling, advocacy, and informal socializing weekly.

**The Bridge of Central Massachusetts**

**Supported Employment & Education (C3) $32,000**

SEE specialists work with individuals who wish to be employed or go to school, make employment and educational contacts and provide needed follow-along supports for each individual enrolled. By connecting individuals with competitive employment or helping them to attain educational goals, they are being helped in making important strides toward recovery, independence and economic stability for themselves and their families.

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The CASA Project, Inc.  

**CASA/GAL Child Court Advocacy (Safety Net)**  
$54,000

The CASA Project provides volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children in Worcester County Juvenile Court. With strong support from the Worcester County Juvenile Court, CASA volunteers perform investigations for the judge, monitor case progress, and advocate for the child, in order to find a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible.

UMass Memorial HealthCare, Inc - HOPE Coalition  

**HOPE Coalition Mental Health Model (C3)**  
$85,000

The HOPE Coalition/YouthNet Mental Health Model integrates mental health treatment, prevention, asset building, and staff training into youth-serving organizations in Worcester in order to increase access for low-income youth of color and reduce stigma associated with receiving mental health support.

Webster Square Day Care Center, Inc.  

**Preschool Child Care (C3)**  
$33,000

Webster Square Day Care Center, Inc. is an NAEYC accredited comprehensive multi-service early education and care agency that provides a safe, affordable, high-quality learning environment for children 2.9 to 7 years of age. Teaching is through a team approach and the curriculum centers around the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive needs of children. The daily program promotes learning in the areas of language development, physical development, early literacy, mathematics, science, technology, art, music, social studies, health and safety, self-regulation, and building positive relationships.

Worcester Community Action Council  

**Project Excel (C3)**  
$40,000

Project Excel is a comprehensive educational and employment program for individuals who have not completed high school that helps individuals achieve self-sufficiency and productive lives. These goals are accomplished by the enhancement of reading, writing, and mathematical skills through General Educational Development (GED) Test preparation. The academic program is supplemented by pre-employment skills, computer training, and job placement assistance.

Worcester Food & Active Living Policy Council  

**5210 Worcester (C3)**  
$51,250

5210 Worcester will address childhood obesity in Worcester by expanding the Let's Go! program in Worcester. Let's Go! is an evidence-based, nationally recognized obesity prevention program that reaches children and families in six distinct sectors: healthcare, early childhood, community, schools, after school, workplace. The goal however, is not to just communicate these healthy habits, but to create environments that make the healthy choice the easy choice. The program will help provide healthy choices for snacks and celebrations; limit unhealthy choices. Provide water and low fat milk; limit or eliminate sugary beverages. Provide non-food rewards. Provide opportunities for children to physical activity every day. Limit recreational screen time.

Worcester Roots Project  

**Co-Operative Youth Leadership Program (C3)**  
$14,000

This program will increase the number of youth leaders by 15 per year in co-operative programs incubated by WRP and enhancing their skills to secure a job in the market. These co-operative programs are Toxic Soil.

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Busters (TSB), Youth in Charge (YIC), and Future Focus media. TSB, a group of 14-18 year olds, use outreach, education and direct action to tackle lead contaminated soil in Main South and Piedmont neighborhoods. YIC, a group of 14-20 year olds from Bell Hill area, work to identify and meet community needs in Bell Hill and Lower Lincoln neighborhoods. Future Focus Media trains groups of 15-22 year olds in new ways to use modern technology to network with people from all walks of life. There are currently 27 youth reached per year through these three programs, and, with the support of United Way of Central Mass funding, it will increase to reach 42 youth per year.

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.

**ASCEND Program** (Women’s Initiative) $28,000

The ASCEND structured after-school program is a community-based, therapeutic milieu for girls who are facing or have faced serious disruptions in their lives. It is designed to provide therapeutic support and a structured, safe environment 3 days per week during the after-school hours and during the day in summers in order to enable girls to build positive relationships and reduce their risk of violence. The ASCEND Program is utilizing the Girls Circle curriculum to promote self-confidence, trust, positive decision making skills, and positive relationships with peers and adults.

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.

**Dynamy Youth Academy** (C3) $40,000

Dynamy Youth Academy students participate in a 5 year college access/success and leadership program for promising low income public high school students. Students have advisors to monitor progress and performance; adventure trips to develop self-confidence, leadership and community; and they develop portfolios showing formal planning, goal-setting, and self-reflection. Students have internships to explore interests and aptitudes, become knowledgeable about colleges and application process, and participate in community service projects.

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.

**YouthConnect Worcester** (C3) $550,000

YouthConnect is an innovative and effective collaboration among Worcester's major youth-serving agencies providing quality out of school time programs to 5300 youth in the city. YouthConnect opens the doorways to hundreds of young people through a partnership that allows a member of ONE partner organization to participate in programs at ALL the others! YouthConnect brings together the best practices of each agency to better serve youth and is now developing common measurements and common outcomes to collectively measure our impact.

YWCA of Central Massachusetts

**Girls CHOICE** (Women’s Initiative) $15,000

Girls CHOICE is a comprehensive mentoring system that supports the academic path and healthy development of at-risk girls from the time they enter the program in 7th grade until they graduate from high school with the goal of preparing them for post-secondary education and an economically secure future.

YWCA of Central Massachusetts

**Girls Choice Middle/High School Program** (C3) $20,000

The YWCA of Central Massachusetts partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass/MetroWest to offer the Girls CHOICE program: a long-term, coordinated system of support services and community connections that empower 7th-12th grade girls to become self-sufficient through educational pursuits, mature into self-assured and independent young adults, as well as achieve the foundational skills and knowledge required to ensure economic security. Girls CHOICE is designed to be a hub of connections which provides 7th-
12th grade girls with access to a network of services including: mentoring, violence reduction and women’s empowerment programming, academic support, leadership development, and civic engagement. Participants stay in Girls CHOICE until they graduate from high school, and many continue to be involved after graduation.

**YWCA of Central Massachusetts (with Girls Incorporated)**

**Girls Promoting Safety** (Women’s Initiative) $60,000

The YWCA and Girls Inc. are collaborating to deliver Girls Promoting Safety (GPS), a violence prevention program designed to teach and develop skills and competencies that help middle-school aged girls avoid and/or prevent their involvement with violence. GPS uses a blended curriculum that is made up of interactive, research, and evidence-based strategies including Safe Dates, Friendly PEERsuasion and other supporting material.

**YWCA of Central Massachusetts**

**Worcester Early Education and Care (C3)** $54,000

The YWCA of Central Massachusetts' Center for Early Education and Care provides accessible, affordable, high quality, full-day, full-year child care for infants and toddlers (1 month to 2.9 years) that is nationally accredited. Through a developmentally appropriate curriculum that focuses on each child's individualized needs, the Center's educated and trained staff provide children with daily interactions and experiences that promote their social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development. The Center staff also work to forge strong personal relationships with working families, providing the necessary support services and referrals, to ensure their child's develop to their full potential contributing to their readiness for school.

**YWCA of Central Massachusetts**

**Daybreak Domestic Violence Services** (Safety Net) $35,000

The Daybreak program provides a continuum of community-based services (24-hour hotline, court advocacy, safety planning, support groups, counseling, outreach and education) that restore well-being and/or safety to the lives of individuals who have been impacted by domestic violence.

**YWCA of Central Massachusetts**

**Transitional Housing** (Safety Net) $67,000

The Transitional Housing Program provides safe, affordable and supportive housing to adult women while they work to build their capacity to achieve stability, independence, and self-sufficiency.

**YWCA of Central Massachusetts**

**Young Parents Program** (C3) $45,000

The Young Parents Program, in operation since the mid-1980s, is designed to help teen parents complete their high-school education, gain economic independence and become the best parents they can be. It supports the philosophies of welfare reform that emphasize the need to strengthen families and decrease welfare dependency.

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