

CRD Funds – Fiscal Year 2025

The Children's System of Care has historically made Community Resource Development (CRD) funds available to the Care Management Organizations (CMO) to support the development of resources that promote the resiliency of youth and families in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health. We are excited to announce the programs that have been funded for 2024-2025!



BERGEN

Baker Street Cares Foundation

Baker Street Cares Foundation (BSC) offers free in-community programs in Bergen County to support youth up to age 21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Through twice-weekly Executive Functioning Groups and monthly Parent Training Workshops, participants build social, emotional, and cognitive skills while learning strategies to manage behaviors and improve self-regulation through biofeedback therapy. All sessions, materials, and transportation assistance are provided at no cost with services available in English and Spanish at BSC's Fair Lawn Pediatric Development Center.

BURLINGTON

Kim S. Warren Productions: Coaching the Creative

Coaching the Creative, a program under Kim S. Warren Productions (KSWP), empowers youth across New Jersey and Philadelphia through arts-based education in theater, film, dance, writing, and branding. Founded in 2018 by Kim S. Warren, KSWP is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and families by fostering creativity and growth. Through hands-on training and mentorship, Coaching the Creative provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to advance in the creative arts while promoting cultural enrichment and community engagement.

Aspire Youth Development: Next Stop Career Program

Aspire Youth Development's Next Stop Career Initiative prepares youth ages 16-21 in Burlington County for success in today's workforce by building essential job readiness skills and exposing them to high-demand industries. Through a week-long summer program and monthly school-based Lunch and Learn sessions, students gain hands-on experience, career insights, and practical tools to achieve independence and career confidence. Partnering with local schools and community organizations, Aspire connects students from underserved areas to valuable training, guest speakers, and field trips that expand opportunity and bridge gaps in access to employment and education.

CAMDEN

Behavioral Interventions: Community Club

Community Club, offered by Behavioral Interventions, is a free after-school program for youth ages 12-18 that focuses on building positive social skills in a supportive community setting. Through engaging, non-therapeutic activities like art, games, music, and movement, participants learn friendship and relationship building, conflict resolution, respect, and self-expression. Held once a week for two hours, Community Club provides a safe, inclusive space for teens of all abilities to connect, grow, and practice real-world social skills under the guidance of trained mentors.

CAPE/ATLANTIC

Cape Assist – She Speaks Power

She Speaks Power offers a faith-centered sisterhood for girls, ages 12-17, focused on identity, confidence, and purpose. Through monthly Power Circles, mentorship, hands-on workshops, and community events, participants grow emotionally, socially, and spiritually in a safe and uplifting space. The program also includes community outreach programs like The Prayer Closet, which provides essentials such as clothing to families in need.

No Limits Academy

No Limits Academy (NLA) offers an after-school program for underserved youth ages 11-19. Centered around the sport of boxing, the program teaches discipline, confidence, and resilience while fostering personal, professional, and spiritual growth. NLA provides a safe, supportive environment where youth can develop life skills, build character, and reach their full potential both in and out of the ring.

CUMBERLAND/ GLOUCESTER/SALEM

United Advocacy Group: Youth Mentoring Program

The United Advocacy Group (UAG) Youth Mentoring Program provides a safe, engaging environment for youth, ages 13-19, to build positive relationships, develop life skills, and connect with supportive community resources. Designed to reduce community-based violence and gang involvement, the program offers mentoring, peer discussions, educational workshops, and recreational activities that promote resilience, violence prevention, and healthy decision making. Through consistent mentorship and incentives like field trips and goal-based rewards, youth are guided toward positive choices, personal growth, and a successful future – all while helping to create safer, stronger neighborhoods across Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties.

ESSEX

Grades 4 Life

Grades4Life offers youth, ages 10-21, a hands-on entrepreneurship program that teaches business fundamentals, financial literacy, leadership, public speaking, and career readiness skills. Participants engage in structured 9-week cohorts, receive mentorship, and attend weekly wellness sessions with a licensed therapist. The program culminates in Pop-Up Show events where youth showcase their businesses, connect with the community, and gain real-world experience in entrepreneurship.

HUDSON

LEGNDXRY: Family, Love, Overpowering Wounds (F.L.O.W.)

The LEGNDXRY F.L.O.W. project is a psychoeducational program designed to create safe, healing spaces where families can reconnect, communicate, and grow together. Recognizing that trauma and disconnection often strain relationships between youth and their caregivers, the program fosters empathy and understanding by encouraging parents and children to see one another as individuals – with their own feelings, experiences, and challenges. Through guided discussions and activities, families learn healthier ways to communicate, strengthen emotional bonds, and break cycles of pain through love, respect, and compassion. At its core, LEGNDXRY F.L.O.W. promotes the belief that love has the power to heal wounds, unite families, and build stronger, more resilient communities.

HUNTERDON/ SOMERSET/WARREN

United Way of Hunterdon County

The United Way of Hunterdon County (UWHC) Mental Health Access Initiative is dedicated to expanding mental health services and advancing suicide prevention efforts across central New Jersey. In partnership with EMPOWER Somerset and ELLIE Mental Health, the program will deliver mental health services to 120 community members. By strengthening community partnerships and using a data-driven approach with pre- and post-assessments, this initiative aims to improve access to care, reduce mental health disparities, and support overall emotional well-being for individuals and families in need.

Youth Thriving

Youth Thriving is an innovative program focused on promoting mental health, addressing substance use, and preventing youth gun violence. Centered on the concept of human flourishing, the program creates meaningful opportunities for young people to build resilience, develop positive life skills, and thrive emotionally and socially. Supported by a strong board and a proven record of impactful community programming, Youth Thriving empowers youth to overcome challenges, make healthy choices, and contribute to safer, more connected communities.

MERCER

Visionary Philanthropy Group – EFICS/Beatbox

The Empowering Futures through Innovation and Community Support (EFICS) program by Visionary Philanthropy Group Inc. (VPG) is a transformative initiative designed to equip at-risk youth and young adults in Mercer County with the tools, skills, and support needed for self-sufficiency and success. Combining the Building Peaceful Futures violence prevention and intervention curriculum with BreakBeatCode, a technology-based workforce readiness program, EFICS promotes personal growth, peacebuilding, and career development. Through hands-on learning, mentorship, and community connection, the program empowers 75-100 participants each year to overcome barriers, reduce violence, and build brighter, more stable futures – one individual at a time.

MIDDLESEX

Raritan Bay Area YMCA

The Raritan Bay Area YMCA (RBYMCA) Mission on the Move Program expands the organization's food pantry and free Healthier Access Office by bringing essential resources directly to Middlesex County families through a fully equipped mobile RV. In partnership with the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ), the program delivers nutritious food, preventative education to Coordinated Family Care clients and other community members in need. Through mobile outreach, personalized nutrition and wellness education, and connections to counseling and referral services, Mission on the Move reduces barriers to care, promotes healthier living, and strengthens the well-being of families.

MONMOUTH

Neighborhood Connections to Health

The Neighborhood Connections to Health (NCTH) Community Kitchen Program is a bilingual, intergenerational initiative that brings youth, families, and seniors together to strengthen community bonds, reduce food insecurity, and promote healthy living. Rooted in NCTH's mission to build partnerships that connect all residents to healthier lifestyles, the program provides hands-on cooking sessions twice a month where families learn meal planning, budgeting, food safety, and nutrition while preparing and sharing meals together. Guided by a registered dietician and social worker, participants gain valuable life skills, build confidence, and foster relationships across cultures and generations. By combining education, empowerment, and community engagement, the Community Kitchen enhances food access, reduces social isolation, and cultivates a stronger, more connected, and resilient Freehold community.

Mercy Center of NJ

The Mercy Center Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) project is a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen the emotional well-being and academic success of students in the Greater Asbury Park area. Partnering with four local schools, the program provides evidence-based SEL and ACE workshops for teachers and parents – enhancing their understanding of mental health, coping strategies, and trauma-informed practices. Students will participate in engaging group activities that reinforce these lessons and build life skills for future success. In collaboration with Effective School Solutions, Konscious Youth Development Services (KYDS), and MonmouthCares, Mercy Center also offers wraparound supports such as counseling, food assistance, and family services. It aims to create more supportive, resilient school communities and expand to additional schools throughout the region.

MORRIS/SUSSEX

Girls on the Run

The Girls on the Run (GOTR) program empowers girls ages 8-13 to build confidence, develop emotional resilience, and form healthy connections through a fun, research-based curriculum that combines life skills, physical activity, and community engagement. Meeting twice a week for 10-weeks, participants explore themes of healthy living, connectedness, and empowerment – learning about self-care, teamwork, and celebrating personal strengths. Each session blends discussion, movement, and goal-setting, helping girls build emotional awareness, positive relationships, and self-confidence.

Morris Arts Council

The Morris Arts Words Expansion Program addresses the growing mental health needs of female and gender-expansive youth in grades 6-12 by combining the arts with social-emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-informed care. Delivered in partnership with the Dover Free Public Library, this free, ten-week after-school program offers a safe space for up to 40 participants across two sessions, providing creative expression, mentorship from teaching artists and a licensed social worker, and nutritious meals. The curriculum focuses on building well-being, self-confidence, resilience, and cultural awareness while measuring impact through pre- and post-program evaluations of key social-emotional indicators. By integrating arts education, SEL, and trauma informed practices, this program empowers youth to overcome challenges, strengthen emotional health, and thrive both academically and socially, particularly in under-resourced communities.

Morris County Parks Alliance

The Morris County Parks Alliance Horticultural Therapy Programs provide children and teen with intellectual and development disabilities, autism, or emotional and mental health challenges, with hands-on gardening experiences that promote wellness, independence, and social-emotional growth. Programs like Branching Out, Kids to Kids, and Garden to Table teach participants gardening skills, healthy eating, teamwork, and responsibility while offering individualized attention in small groups. Participants cultivate their own garden plots, harvest produce, and enjoy activities like salad-building parties, reinforcing nutrition education, and a sense of accomplishment. By connecting youth with high school volunteers, medical professionals, and community partners, these programs foster intergenerational learning, social cohesion, and confidence, while making outdoor, nature-based experiences accessible to all.

Silver Linings – Sunshine Dance Camp

The Silver Linings Sunshine Dance Camp is an 8-week summer program for youth, ages 8-14, that combines licensed clinical expertise with dance instruction to promote mental health and self-expression. Held at Garden Grove Preschool, the program meets twice a week for three-hour sessions, accommodating up to 24 participants weekly. Using a multisensory approach grounded in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), youth engage in free movement and structured dance activities to develop coping strategies, bodily awareness, emotional expression, and healthy stress management skills. Through this innovative combination of therapy and movement, the camp helps participants build confidence, self-regulation, and adaptability while fostering resilience and social-emotional growth.

OCEAN

Field of Dreams

The Toms River Field of Dreams Sensory Garden is an inclusive outdoor space where children and adults of all abilities engage in hands-on gardening, explore their senses, and participate in therapeutic activities. The garden promotes emotional well-being, cognitive development, social interaction, and life skills while providing a calming, sensory-rich environment for learning, creativity, and connection.

PASSAIC

Grades4Life

Grades4Life's Youth Entrepreneurship Program empowers youth, ages 10-17, to develop business skills, financial literacy, leadership, and public speaking through structured programming, mentorship, and community engagement. Participants collaborate on projects, explore career paths, and showcase their entrepreneurial ventures to local leaders and the community, building confidence, creativity, and real-world skills in a supportive, inclusive environment.

UNION

Institute of Music for Children

The Institute of Music for Children offers youth a dynamic, multi-disciplinary program in music, visual and performing arts, media, wellness, and leadership. Through weekly, afterschool, Saturday, and summer sessions, participants engage in hands-on activities like acting, dance, instrumental music, visual arts, podcast creation, and wellness workshops, building creativity, confidence, and life skills in a supportive and empowering environment.