



BERKS COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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\$143,500 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO IMPROVE HEALTH; ANOTHER ROUND OF FUNDING AVAILABLE SOON

READING, PA (May 25, 2022) – Five organizations have been awarded grants totaling \$143,500 for programs that address health-related issues among residents of Berks and nearby counties.

The Home Health Care Foundation Fund of Berks County Community Foundation awarded the grants. This fund will again accept applications for another round of funding from June 1 until August 15, 2022

The Home Health Care Foundation Fund provides grants to organizations and programs that do one or more of the following:

- Help residents recover from illness or disability at home.
- Support preventative healthcare for residents and overall community health.
- Provide health-related charity care to residents.

Programs that serve Berks County and/or those counties that are contiguous to it are eligible to apply. Berks County organizations receive preference.

The maximum amount available per organization is \$40,000.

To apply, visit bccf.org and click on “Apply for a grant” under “Scholarships + Grants” in the website menu or go to <http://bccf.link/grants>. You must create an account to access the application system.

The Home Health Care Foundation Fund has distributed \$658,700 in grants since it was established at the Community Foundation in 2020.

The grants for this round of funding:

- \$40,000 to Berks Encore for its “Medically-Tailored Meal Program.” In this pilot program, 25 individuals will receive two medically-tailored meals and 1 snack per day, 7 days per week, for 12 weeks. Medically-tailored meals are delivered to those living with severe illness via referral from a medical professional. The diets are designed to improve health outcomes, lower cost of care, and increase patient satisfaction.
- \$40,000 to Western Berks Ambulance Association for ongoing cardiac monitor replacements.
- \$30,000 to Opportunity House to turn two storage rooms into bedrooms for shelter residents recovering from illness, replace 75 shelter mattresses, and support the salary of a new social worker who will coordinate a program for at-home testing and recovery from COVID.
- \$27,000 to the YMCA of Reading & Berks County for the “Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program,” which is designed to help adults with hypertension lower and manage their blood pressure by focusing on regular self-monitoring. The grant will cover the cost for 108 participants in the first year of this program, including blood pressure monitors and cuffs for each participant.
- \$6,500 to John Paul II Center for Special Learning for “Medical and Mental Health Crisis Preparedness.” The center said the pandemic highlighted the center’s need to expand its medical supplies and to train to respond more quickly to medical emergencies and mental health crises.

Below, a Berks Encore volunteer delivers “Meals on Wheels.” The Home Health Care Foundation Fund of Berks County Community Foundation has awarded a grant for Berks Encore’s pilot program that will deliver medically-tailored meals to those living with severe illness via referral from a medical professional. Two meal examples, lemon chicken and salmon, are pictured.





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Berks County Community Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that serves as a civic leader for our region by developing, managing, and distributing charitable funds aimed at improving the quality of life in Berks County. More information is available at www.bccf.org.