



Cambridge Community Foundation announces \$665K in fall grants to local organizations

New fund offers help for families made homeless by weekend fire

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Cambridge, MA

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Grants addressing a wide range of issues touching the lives of local residents and the Cambridge community as a whole were announced by the Board of Overseers of **Cambridge Community Foundation** December 7 at its quarterly meeting.

One late addition to the list: a grant for \$10,000 to establish a fund in response to the fire that devastated a neighborhood on Berkshire Street in the center of the city on December 3. Called [The Rebuilding Fund](#), it is designed to augment the city's efforts to help the more than 104 residents – 48 families – including 29 students at local schools who lost their homes. As the name suggests, the fund is provided to help those who were burned out rebuild their lives.

In addition to The Rebuilding Fund, the Foundation's initiative grants include a three year commitment to the **BioBuilder Educational Foundation**. This expands the Foundation's commitment to creating pathways into the innovation economy for local youth, and to begin working with local partners, such as **Biogen** and **Novartis**. Students will be offered introductory experiences in their community labs, which will be extended through **BioBuilder Learning Lab** at LabCentral. A second initiative grant will support important work planned by new **Cambridge School Superintendent Kenneth Salim**, as he explores existing achievement gaps among Cambridge students.

This release is available online at [CCF Community Fund Fall Grants](#) with links to the organizations funded, to make it possible to find out more about agencies serving local need.

New fund to help fire victims

The Rebuilding Fund –\$10,000 to help families who lost their homes in the Dec. 3 Berkshire Street neighborhood fire. Donors have increased the size of the fund, which remains open for additional gifts. Members of the community can contribute either by check to the Foundation mailed to Cambridge

Community Foundation, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge MA 02139, or electronically through [Network for Good](#).

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism

[Community Conversations: Sister to Sister](#) – \$7,500 to support 10 open health forums with facilitated conversations focused on health.

[Many Helping Hands](#) – \$5,000 for the seventh annual Cambridge-wide Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the volunteering website www.manyhelpinghands365.org

[WBUR](#) – \$2,000 for journalism and analysis including for BostonomiX, exploring Boston's innovation economy and strengthening a local focus on partnerships with grassroots organizations.

Arts and Cultural Vitality

[Beyond the Wall Expression Theater](#) – \$5,000 for general operating support and for theater training for young people.

[Boston Symphony Orchestra](#) – \$2,500 to fund Days in the Arts, a summer residential program for middle school students to experience an arts immersion experience.

[Cambridge Art Association](#) – \$2,000 to help strengthen the organization's infrastructure and build capacity.

[Cambridge Children's Chorus](#) – \$3,500 to support programming for children from age 4 through middle school, and collaboration with organizations throughout the metro area.

[Cambridge Jazz Festival](#) – \$2,000 to support a free annual jazz festival at Danehy Park on June 30.

[Cambridge Performance Project](#) – \$2,000 for operating support for children's art programs at elementary and middle schools as well as adult dance.

[Cambridge Symphony Orchestra](#) – \$1,500 for a free Pops on the Lawn concert in Sennott Park in The Port.

[Community Art Center](#) – \$12,500 for general operating support in three areas: school age child care, the teen media program, and community programming.

[José Mateo Ballet Theatre](#) – \$5,000 to support the ninth annual Dance for the World community festival in Harvard Square.

[Longy School of Music at Bard College](#) – \$6,500 for operating support for community outreach, including the Sistema Side By Side Series, a mentoring program for children from under-resourced communities, free concerts, and for Longy's partnerships with local arts organizations.

[Metamovements Latin Dance Company](#) – \$2,500 to fund Salsa in the Park and a collaboration with Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House and the Senior Center.

[New School of Music](#) – \$1,000 for Cultural Collage, providing free music instruction to children.

[North Cambridge Family Opera Company](#) – \$2,500 to help underwrite an original opera, an original science cantata to be sung at the Cambridge Science Festival, and science songwriting workshops for students in kindergarten through fifth grade in Cambridge Schools.

Early Childhood

[Community Music Center of Boston](#) – \$2,000 to support music-therapy in pre-school programs in four schools during the academic year and in the summer.

[Families First](#) – \$4,000 for parenting education and support programs.

[Riverside Community Care/Guidance Center](#) – \$15,000 for professional development, training and research on best practices for current programs.

Education and Youth Development

[Agassiz Baldwin Community](#) – \$5,000 to enable low-income children to attend the ABC After School or Outback Summer Program.

[Big Sister Association of Greater Boston](#) – \$5,000 for mentoring programs in the Cambridge area.

[Breakthrough Greater Boston](#) – \$17,500 to support the launch of BTGB's strategic plan.

[Cambridge Camping](#) – \$15,000 for Cambridge Adventure and Daybreak Day Camps to help subsidize tuition costs for out-of-school experience for young people.

[Cambridge Housing Authority](#) – \$15,000 to support Work Force, a five-year comprehensive youth development program for teens living in Cambridge public housing.

[Cambridge School Volunteers](#) – \$7,500 for free tutoring for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade.

[Enroot](#) (formerly Cambridge Community Services) – \$20,000 for a holistic education program for immigrant students in Cambridge.

[Prospect Hill Academy Charter School](#) – \$2,500 for the junior year internship program.

[Tutoring Plus](#) – \$17,500 for elementary and middle school programs to provide targeted training to volunteers and staff, and to develop high school peer leaders.

Elder Support

[Cambridge At Home](#) – \$2,000 to support the needs of older adults who wish to stay in their homes as they age.

[Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse](#) – \$20,500 for general operating support for a service that matches adult volunteers with Cambridge human service agencies.

[Care Dimensions](#) – \$1,500 to help provide palliative care to seniors facing life-limiting illness.

[Homeowners Rehab](#) – \$15,000 for the Home Improvement Program to stabilize neighborhoods by helping to provide maintenance and repairs for elderly homeowners with limited resources.

[Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers](#) – \$12,000 to support the elder services program, Cambridge Senior Center, Immigrant Integration Services Program and the Community Senior Advocate Pilot Project.

[Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership](#) – \$5,000 for the Hoarding Initiative to train professionals to intervene with Section 8 housing clients at risk of eviction because of hoarding.

[Paine Senior Services](#) – \$5,000 for support services including eviction prevention, health care, homecare, bill paying and personal care.

[Sancta Maria's Windsor House](#) (New Communities Services) – \$5,000 for Adult Day Health Programs.

[Tunefoolery Music](#) – \$1,000 for a music education program and 10 live music performances at Windsor House.

Environment

[CitySprouts](#) – \$3,500 for a middle school program to engage youth in science, engineering and math by focusing on gardening and food systems after school and in the summer.

Engaging The Public Realm – \$1,000 for Ground Break, a public art festival on Earth Day, created to provide dialogue about sustainability.

[Green Cambridge, Inc.](#) – \$1,000 for general support to help run local programs.

[Green Streets Initiative](#) – \$5,000 to support Walk/Ride Day Program for Cambridge commuters.

STEAM /Addressing the Education and Innovation Gap

[BioBuilder Educational Foundation](#) – \$75,000 in three annual installments of \$25,000 each to support the Apprenticeship Challenge and establish a Community Lab Partnership Program. Funding is provided for multiple years to support a plan to double the number of Cambridge apprentices trained each year, to expand the partnerships with Biogen, Novartis and LabCentral Learning Labs, and to study the outcome of BioBuilders programming.

Education Gap Research Project – \$25,000 to support a proposal from newly appointed School Superintendent Kenneth Salim to develop a district plan that will examine data related to persistent gaps of achievement and opportunity. The grant supports funding for research data analysis and an external advisory team.

[Innovators 4 Purpose](#) – \$7,500 to support the Creative Doers Project to encourage youth from underserved communities engage with STEM topics.

[Just-A-Start Corporation](#) – \$20,000 to support education and workforce training programs for teens, youth and adults to increase economic mobility.

Strengthening Families /Economic Empowerment

[Compass Working Capital](#) – \$7,500 for a pilot project to expand CWC’s Family Self-Sufficiency program to serve public housing residents.

Urgent Need and Underserved Communities

[Aids Action: Youth On Fire](#) – \$7,500 for peer programs for homeless and street-involved youth 14-24.

[American Red Cross of MA](#) – \$2,500 to help people faced with emergencies and to train volunteers.

[Boston Area Rape Crisis Center](#) – \$5,000 to increase the agency’s capacity.

[The Bridge Fund of Massachusetts, Inc.](#) – \$5,000 to provide assistance and services to people at risk of becoming homeless.

[Cambridge Health Alliance Foundation](#) – \$5,000 funding for the Sibling Support Program for typically developing youth during a sibling’s psychiatric hospitalization.

[Caritas Communities](#) – \$5,000 to help provide healthy food and exercise to men living at Central House, many of whom have recently been homeless.

[CASPAR](#) – \$12,000 for shelter and recovery services for homeless individuals from Cambridge and surrounding communities.

[Catholic Charities: St Patrick’s Women’s Shelter](#) – \$6,000 to support emergency shelter and work/stabilization services for homeless women.

[Community Dispute Settlement Center](#) – \$7,500 to support conflict management including in parenting and housing-related disputes that affect children.

[Community Legal Services and Counseling Center](#) – \$15,000 for legal aid and mental health programs for low-income and vulnerable people to help them gain access to address basic needs and to recruit, train and support volunteer professionals.

[Community Servings](#) – \$7,500 to support the nutrition program for Cambridge residents facing acute, life-threatening illness.

[East End House](#) – \$30,000 for general operating support.

[**Family-to-Family Project**](#) – \$5,000 to prevent and reverse family homelessness through timely financial assistance.

[**Food For Free**](#) – \$15,000 to support the Food Rescue and Distribution Program, that distributes more than 2 million pounds of food a year serving 30,000-plus people.

[**Greater Boston Food Bank**](#) – \$7,500 to provide food for Cambridge-area hunger relief agencies.

[**Harvard Square Churches Meal Program**](#) – \$4,000 to serve dinner to homeless and low-income people every Thursday at Christ Church, Cambridge.

[**Homeless Empowerment Project/Spare Change**](#) – \$10,000 to help secure supplemental operating income while the organization develops a new business plan.

[**HomeStart**](#) – \$10,000 to support Cambridge Housing Services and help homeless and at-risk residents find and maintain permanent housing.

[**Project Manna**](#) – \$4,000 for general operating support for outreach to the homeless including hot meals and a food pantry.

[**Shelter Legal Services**](#) d/b/a Veterans Legal Services – \$5,000 to help veterans, many of whom are homeless, stabilize or improve their housing, family or economic situation.