

# FY 2025 Community Grants Summary Sheet

**CARECEN** | The Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) fosters the comprehensive development of the Latino and immigrant populations in the Washington metropolitan region. Founded in 1981, CARECEN provides direct services, including low-to-no-cost legal assistance, housing counseling, citizenship assistance, and educational workshops, while promoting grassroots empowerment, civic engagement, and human rights advocacy.

Recognizing the growing number of clients relocating to Prince George's County due to rising housing costs in DC, CARECEN established a Maryland office in January 2025 to meet the evolving needs of the community. The grant funds will be used to provide legal services to at least 20 residents of Bladensburg. These brief legal services include assistance with FOIA requests, work permits, DACA and TPS renewals, green card replacements, and citizenship applications.

In addition to legal services, CARECEN will host both virtual and in-person Know Your Rights (KYR) workshops aimed at educating immigrant communities about their constitutional rights during encounters with ICE enforcement and review family preparedness measures to at least 100 individuals.

**ECO City Farms** | ECO City Farms is seeking an operating grant from the Town of Bladensburg to sustain its mission of promoting food security, community health, and environmental stewardship through urban farming. Intentionally located in Prince George's County, ECO aims to serve the community of Bladensburg by providing access to affordable, local, and chemical-free produce, educating beginner farmers in sustainable farming practices, and fostering a deeper connection to our shared earth.

The grant funds will support critical aspects of ECO's operations, including equipment for community events, water subsidies for local growers, and essential farm supplies. The primary beneficiaries include the hundreds of Bladensburg residents who participate in ECO's programs and events. This encompasses the students who participate in our 6-week Summer Youth Program, 10-20 rising sophomores at Bladensburg High School; the community growers who call our Bladensburg Farm home, as well as their families and community; our farm staff; and our dozens of CSA members. Additionally, ECO will use this funding to support our Summer Open House, which connects hundreds of Bladensburg residents, especially our immediate neighbors, with our offerings, growing practices, and dialogues about our food system. We estimate that this funding will support us in serving 500 Bladensburg residents through fresh food access, farming education, and community events.

ECO City Farms has been a pioneer in urban agriculture for over 15 years, transforming underutilized suburban and industrial spaces into thriving farms that address food insecurity, soil remediation, and environmental education. Our Bladensburg Farm, where our farmers produce fresh vegetables, compost, and community on three and a half acres of previously vacant land, is the only urban farm in the Town of Bladensburg.

Through partnerships with local institutions and advocacy efforts, ECO has positioned itself as a leader in sustainable agriculture in Prince George's County, contributing to policy change and increased community resilience. The grant will enable ECO to continue and expand upon these efforts.

**GHEP** | The Global Health and Education Projects, Inc. (GHEP) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to advancing health and education equity in underserved communities. In FY25, GHEP will expand its Community Diaper Distribution Program to support low-income families living in the Town of Bladensburg. This project will provide essential baby supplies—primarily diapers and wipes—to families with infants and toddlers, helping to reduce economic hardship and promote healthy child development.

GHEP anticipates serving at least 50 Bladensburg residents, with a focus on families with children under age 3. If awarded, Town grant funds will be used to purchase diapers, hygiene items, and materials needed for monthly distribution events. This funding will directly improve the well-being of vulnerable families by addressing a critical, often overlooked need not covered by government assistance programs, and will help build a stronger, healthier Bladensburg community. Recently, GHEP partnered with the Town of Riverdale Park to provide baby diapers and baby products to families in the Town.

**Good Intentions** | The G.R.O.W.T.H. Youth Mentorship Series is a five-week summer program hosted by Good Intentions Foundation, designed to support the personal and academic development of youth ages 11–17. Held at the Bladensburg Fire Station workshop room, this initiative provides a safe and engaging environment where participants explore leadership, mental wellness, financial literacy, and career readiness through culturally responsive workshops and hands-on experiences.

The program will serve approximately 25 youth residents from the Town of Bladensburg and surrounding Port Towns. Each weekly session runs on Monday afternoons from July 14 to August 11, 2025. Youth will also attend an educational field trip and showcase their learning at a culminating Youth Summit in September.

The Town grant funds will support workshop materials, youth supplies (e.g., journals, t-shirts), and participation incentives such as healthy snacks and giveaways, ensuring access and engagement for all attendees.

**This Goes Boom!** This Could Go Boom! is a volunteer-led nonprofit working toward equality in the music industry by highlighting diverse voices. TCGB! has presented more than 350 artists in paid performance, has released two vinyl albums and one digital album for local artists, partnered with Smithsonian Folkways and The Hirshhorn, and has offered professional development and support for local music creatives for seven years.

This Could Go Boom! is presenting a music and culture festival during the week of July 21, culminating in a free community concert at Bladensburg Waterfront Park on Saturday, July 26th. On July 23rd, TCGB! will present 8 artists offering new works based on the book, *Light From Uncommon Stars* at Bladensburg Library. This program will be free to the public and will directly serve Bladensburg residents. The main stage of the festival will take place in Bladensburg Waterfront Park, serving hundreds of Bladensburg citizens with a free music concert featuring diverse genres of music representing many cultures. Programming will include activities for youth and families, learning opportunities about the rich music culture in the Bladensburg area, and opportunities for multigenerational conversations around music. Funding will be used to contract a local business to rent PA and sound equipment.

**We Lead by Example** | We Lead By Example, Inc., is a nonprofit organization set up to promote successful and meaningful futures for children, youth, and adults through teaching them about safety and practical methods of self-defense. Our organization serves 100 or more youth and adults in the Town of Bladensburg through our combined tae kwon do, muay thai kickboxing, and safety classes, and participation in community events (e.g., annual Walk and Rally for Bullying Prevention and Child Safety, Bladefest, Bladensburg International Day) throughout the year. Through this grant, we would like to provide a one-time stipend for our six-member volunteer teaching and administrative staff to acknowledge their dedication.