



# Community 2023 Recovery Annual Fund Report





When Tompkins County received \$20 million in COVID relief funds from the federal government, we knew we wanted to get a lot of that money into the hands of local businesses and not-for-profits. Creating a program from scratch was a big job. It turns out it's harder to give away money than it seems. That sounds like a joke, but it is not.

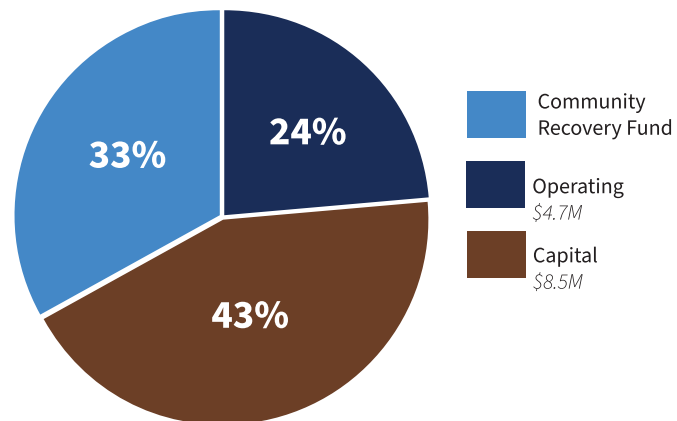
The requests far outnumbered the amount of money we had designated to distribute. Legislators are in office to help people. I could see the distress in my colleagues in having to say no to so many worthy community members.

We tried different methods of deciding how to allocate the money. In the end, we felt that giving all legislators equal weight in the allocation process was best as it drew upon our collective understanding of the needs of Tompkins County. As the projects come to fruition, we will see that collective understanding blossom into a healthier and better place to live for all, in all corners of the county.

Legislator Dan Klein  
Chair, Community Recovery Fund Advisory Committee

### Total American Rescue Plan Act Funds

# \$19.8 Million



The American Rescue Plan Act delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to aid in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funds were distributed based on population size.

Tompkins County received \$19.8 million, which was used for infrastructure investments, operational initiatives, direct community investments, and growing the County's organizational capacity to better serve the community. Other local governments, organizations, and school districts also received funding through the Act.

### Tompkins County Community Recovery Fund

# Recovering from COVID-19



COVID-19 left an indelible mark on every community. The pandemic isn't a time that many people like to look back on, but it is important to remember the remarkable impact that it had on all of us, as well as the efforts from so many people in Tompkins County to make it through difficult times and to come together.

On the two-year anniversary of the pandemic's start (March 2022), Tompkins County Whole Health Commissioner Frank Kruppa wrote to the community, "We have experienced collective trauma and many of us have experienced tragic losses. We navigated ever-changing guidance, and many stepped up to offer mutual aid and assistance. We used all the tools made available to us, including the impressive mass testing and vaccination sites set up locally... While COVID is not over, we have important work to do as a community to address other complex issues that existed prior to the pandemic and have intensified over the past two years. We must also work to address the structural issues that intentionally disadvantage our vulnerable communities, including people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals from accessing high quality health and mental health care to improve health outcomes. We know the problems and challenges, and we need action."

*The Community Recovery Fund seeks to honor the collective trauma and efforts of the Tompkins County community while addressing complex issues exacerbated in recent years.*



"... we have important work to do as a community to address other complex issues that existed prior to the pandemic and have intensified..."

Frank Kruppa  
Tompkins County  
Commissioner of Whole Health

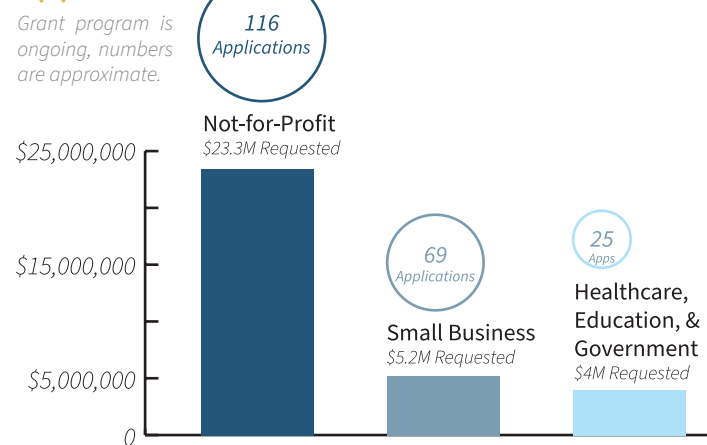


### Tompkins County Community Recovery Fund

# \$6.53 Million

#### Applicants

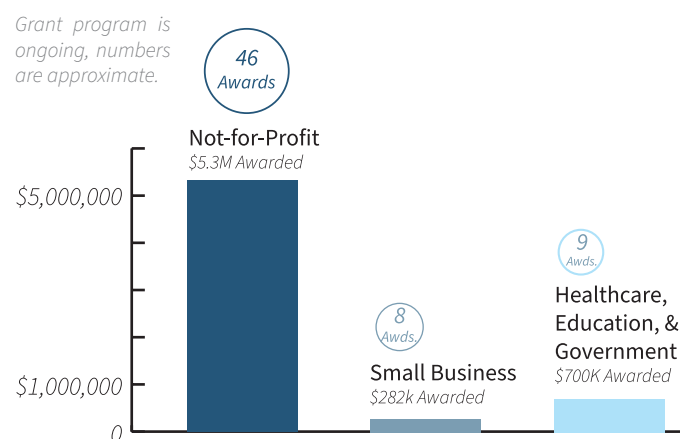
Grant program is ongoing, numbers are approximate.



Local organizations applied for over \$32 million. Applications reflected the needs faced by organizations after the pandemic's impacts in 2020 through 2022, as well as their plans and strategic initiatives to serve the community.

#### Awardees

Grant program is ongoing, numbers are approximate.



The entire Tompkins County Legislature scored each application based on alignment with program and community priorities. The scoring process resulted in dozens of award recipients across Tompkins County addressing myriad community needs.

# Enhancing Community Resilience



Laryngoscope Training

"These video laryngoscopes will help us secure an airway a lot quicker, with a higher success rate and ultimately better patient outcomes."

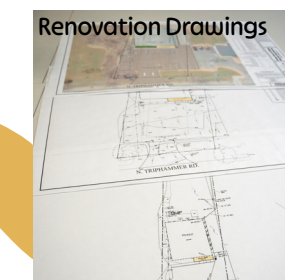
Nick Domster  
Bangs Ambulance

After experiencing the impacts of COVID-19, it's not hard to see why "resilience" has become a rallying cry and a cornerstone of programs like the Community Recovery Fund.

In many ways the Tompkins County community proved its resilience during the pandemic, showcasing the need to invest and strengthen local systems and institutions. Facing the next crisis head-on will be easier because of collaborative efforts like the Community Recovery Fund.



Meat Prep at Foodnet



Renovation Drawings

"This project allows us to maintain our building, which is the home for our work... we can't produce the meals for the 400 clients that we serve daily without having a facility that accommodates this work."

Aly Evans  
Executive Director  
Foodnet Meals on Wheels

# Priority Areas

## Attending to the Impacts of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the community's health in immense and disparate ways. The health of many Tompkins County residents took a physical, mental, emotional, and even economic toll, with the pandemic ultimately impacting everyone differently. Attending to the impacts of COVID-19 took several forms under the Community Recovery Fund, from supporting essential community services to helping people access basic needs like housing and healthcare.

### Project Spotlight INHS

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services received \$57,500 to offset operating costs incurred when they forgave rent for tenants unable to access financial assistance between 2020 and 2022.

### Project Spotlight Catholic Charities

\$50,000 is supporting pandemic rental assistance for very low income households at risk of losing their housing.

### Project Spotlight Lifelong

Many not-for-profit organizations experienced heightened or unsustainable costs during the pandemic, especially during times of economic uncertainty or forced office closures. Lifelong, which serves Tompkins County elders, secured \$17,000 to cover payroll expenses, retaining jobs and ensuring full staffing.

## Responding to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Needs

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted communities already experiencing marginalization, including low income people, people of color, and LGBTQ+ communities. Investing in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice programming and initiatives can build resilience, reduce minoritization, and create a more just community for all.

### Project Spotlight Khuba International

Khuba International supports socially disadvantaged farmers and farming families in creating viable farms, thereby building equity into our local food, land, housing, business, and education systems. \$74,086 was granted to support their work in cooperative farming and building international community.

### Project Spotlight CTA

The Gayogohó:nq? Learning Project, a project of the Center for Transformative Action, was granted \$24,958 to hire a part-time project manager to support the use of Gayogohó:nq? language resources and related technologies, such as recording equipment. Gayogohó:nq? is the Indigenous language of the Tompkins County area.

## Long-Term Capacity Building

Developing the capacity of local organizations to address community needs can speed recovery from the pandemic and increase resiliency for the future. Local organizations are facing complex challenges and increasing community needs, requiring both sustained and innovative operations.

### Project Spotlight NAMI Finger Lakes

\$29,600 was granted to the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness to cover operating costs, including salaries and rent, to expand in-person mental health programming and services.

### Project Spotlight GIAC

The Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC) received \$500,000 in support of its Teen and Recreation Center project, which is culminating in the renovation of a new accessible gymnasium facility.

## Supporting Not-for-Profits and Small Businesses

During and after the pandemic the community has been faced with economic challenges. Not-for-profit organizations and small businesses from all industries faced reduced revenues, managed staffing through furloughs and re-hiring challenges, and are working diligently to rebuild donor and customer bases.

### Project Spotlight Brookton's Market

\$10,000 was granted to Brookton's Market to help cover operating costs for rent, personal protective equipment for employees, and some construction costs to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

### Project Spotlight No Mas Lagrimas

This not-for-profit organization helps to meet critical community needs faced by marginalized populations. \$40,000 will support the organization scaling up and increasing their ability to provide hot meals.

## Addressing Critical Gaps in Local Services

The pandemic highlighted and even exacerbated gaps in local services. When someone is seeking healthcare, housing, food, education, or other resources to address their needs, gaps show up. Addressing those gaps may include developing stronger connections, finding new or innovative services and ways to deliver them, and learning more about unmet community needs.

### Project Spotlight Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity will utilize \$200,000 in grant funds to construct three affordable homes in Tompkins County.

### Project Spotlight Cayuga Medical Center

A \$1.5 million grant will support the construction of a crisis stabilization center, providing 24/7 crisis support for mental health and substance use, along with safe, effective, evidence-based care in a non-restrictive environment.

### Project Spotlight TC3

Tompkins Cortland Community College will offer scholarships for micro-credential programs totaling \$111,820. These programs support specific, in-demand skills development.

### Project Spotlight Ithaca Fire Department

\$45,900 is being used to replace obsolete hazard meters needed by the local Hazmat Response Team.

## Transformative Outcomes

Because the pandemic highlighted so many unmet needs and service gaps in Tompkins County, the opportunity for transformative outcomes has never been clearer. Investing resources in programs that look to change systems and programs that will lead to better and more sustained outcomes has become a priority of the Legislature when making investments.

### Project Spotlight Sustainable Finger Lakes

Mobile homes owned by low to moderate income residents will be retrofitted with heat pumps, insulation, and electrical upgrades totaling \$532,127. The program electrifies the homes and increases energy efficiency.

### Project Spotlight Continuum of Care

\$174,167 will support improvements in local homeless response services. Funds will go towards coordination and direct support for 40 chronically homeless individuals, including resources for supportive housing.

## Supporting Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan Priorities

The Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan reflects the community's values, as expressed by its elected Legislature, by presenting a vision for the future.

### Project Spotlight Cooperative Extension

A 2023 Food System Summit was held leveraging \$24,359 in grant funds. The summit convened stakeholders and supports work of the Tompkins County Food Policy Council.

### Project Spotlight Local First Ithaca

\$15,000 will support a program that will use grassroots investment crowdfunding to nurture local small businesses while providing opportunities for everyone to invest in the local economy and directly benefit from its success.

# Project Spotlight

## Coddington Road Community Center



Existing Childcare Facility

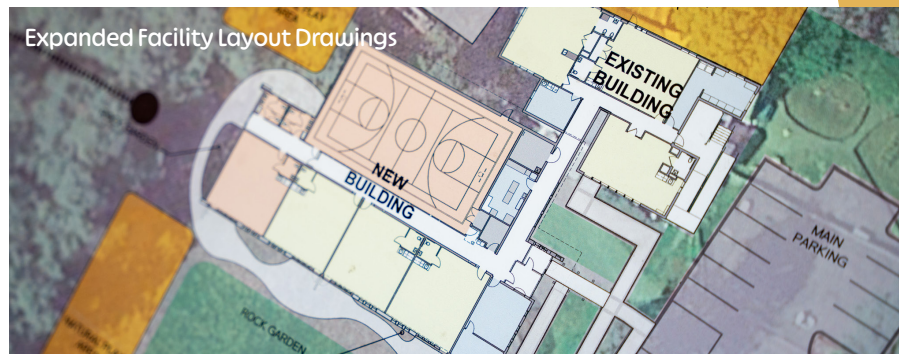
The Community Recovery Fund granted \$400,000 toward childcare facilities expansion at Coddington Road Community Center, including construction and operating costs.

The expanded facility will include three new classrooms and one flexible multipurpose room. The facility is located in Ithaca's South Hill area and serves families from throughout Tompkins County.

According to the Child Development Council, Tompkins County is a child care desert with only enough child care slots to serve one-third of children aged 5 and under. While lack of quality child care presents challenges for families with young children, the impacts are also felt throughout the community and local economy.



Expanded Facility Rendering



Expanded Facility Layout Drawings

“This expansion will have an immediate impact on the families that are interested in our center; it will be impactful for the whole community because we know that childcare is such a need in Tompkins County.”

**Heather Mount**  
Executive Director  
Coddington Road Community Center

# Project Spotlight

## Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service (SCPS)

\$50,000 was granted to the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service of Tompkins County to cover expansion costs including space for increased services and hours of operations.

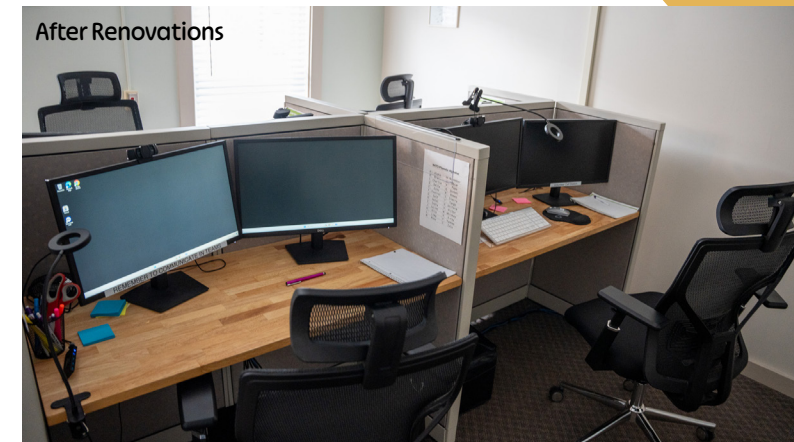
SCPS offers free and confidential crisis counseling, staffed by trained crisis counselors and volunteers. The crisisline answers over 6,000 calls per year, with numbers increasing since the pandemic and the implementation of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



Call Center Before Renovations



Call Center Before Renovations



After Renovations



Call Center Staff

“We were able to go from three call centers that were single screen to 13 dual-screen call centers. We’re able to bring on more staff and fortunate to operate 24/7 now.”

**Tiffany Bloss**  
Executive Director  
Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service

*If you are feeling stressed, depressed, overwhelmed, having thoughts of suicide or are worried about a loved one, it helps to be heard - dial 988 or (607) 272-1616*

# Tompkins County Community Recovery Fund



## Recipients

Advocacy Center of Tompkins County  
 Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County, Inc.  
 Bangs Ambulance, Inc **2**  
 BJM Families Together  
 Brooktondale Community Center  
 Brooktondale Market LLC (Brookton's Market)  
 Caroline After School Program  
 Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga  
 Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services  
 Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca  
 Center for Transformative Action **1**  
 Challenge Workforce Solutions  
 Coddington Road Community Center  
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County **3**  
 Discovery Trail  
 Downtown Ithaca Alliance  
 Dryden Fiber (Town of Dryden)  
 East Ithaca Preschool  
 Finger Lakes ReUse  
 Finger Lakes Toy Library  
 Foodnet Meals on Wheels  
 Fort Baptist Farm LLC  
 Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Inc.  
 Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Inc. Gymnasium  
 Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties  
 Heart and Home Daycare  
 Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County  
 Ithaca Babe Ruth Baseball League (IBRL)  
 Ithaca Community Childcare Center  
 Ithaca Farmers Market **4**  
 Ithaca Fire Department **6**  
 Ithaca Montessori School  
 Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc  
 Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc Rental Assistance

Ithaca Welcomes Refugees  
 Khuba International  
 Lifelong - Tompkins County Sr. Citizens Council, Inc.  
 Local First Ithaca  
 Mental Health Association in Tompkins County  
 Mid-State Education & Service Fund (dba Mid-State COSH)  
 NAMI Finger Lakes  
 New Roots Charter School  
 Newfield Historical Society  
 Newfield Public Library (on behalf of six Tompkins County public libraries)  
 No Más Lágrimas  
 Parenting Naturally  
 Pine Point Medical, PLLC  
 Racker  
 Shortstop Deli  
 South Hill School Age Program  
 St. John's Community Services  
 Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service of Tompkins County, Inc.  
 Sustainable Finger Lakes  
 Teachable Moments Daycare  
 Tompkins Cortland Community College Childcare & Food Pantry **5 8**  
 Tompkins Cortland Community College  
 Tompkins County Area Development (IAED) Foundation **7**  
 Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation  
 Tompkins County Public Library  
 Town of Caroline  
 Town of Enfield  
 Town of Ulysses  
 Varna Community Association  
 Village at Ithaca  
 YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County