

Western MA Community Development Collaborative

Participating Organizations

CDC of South Berkshire County/Tri-Corner CDC, Great Barrington, MA

Tim Geller, Executive Director

Geographic Target Area: 10 Towns in Southern Berkshire County, plus communities in Litchfield County, Connecticut and Columbia & Dutchess Counties, New York.

Since 1988 the CDC of South Berkshire County has worked to improve the educational, employment, economic, cultural and social service opportunities for residents of South Berkshire County. The organization offers a variety of housing assistance and economic development programs. It is currently involved in developing multiple sites for affordable housing, both rental and ownership housing, and in brownfields re-development for both commercial and affordable housing.

Franklin County CDC

John Waite, Executive Director

For more information see: <http://www.fccdc.org>

Target Area: 26 Towns of Franklin County, and Royalston, Athol, Phillipston and Petersham in the North Quabbin region of Worcester County.

Since 1979, Franklin County CDC has been working to stimulate a more vital rural economy and to expand opportunities for low and moderate-income residents. The organization provides entrepreneurial training and business technical assistance programs and since its inception has provided over \$7 million in financing to local businesses through over 250 loans. The CDC operates the Western Mass. Food Processing Center, where specialty and organic food producers can access technical assistance, business planning, product development, manufacturing space and distribution resources. Franklin County CDC is also in the process of restoring the First National Bank Building, a cornerstone structure of downtown Greenfield that has been vacant for over 25 years.

Hilltown CDC

Andrew Baker, Executive Director

For more information see: <http://www.hilltowncdc.org>

Geographic Target Area: 9 Towns in Hampshire County and the Hampden County town of Chester.

For the past 25 years, the Hilltown Community Development Corporation has been working to improve the quality of life for residents of 10 rural communities located in Hampshire and Hampden Counties. The organization develops and preserves affordable housing; provides housing rehabilitation to income eligible homeowners; offers first-time homebuyer counseling and cash assistance for down payment and closing costs; fosters economic development through training, technical assistance and lending to small businesses; supports the provision of social services to children and elders; and oversees community planning and facility improvements by securing resources and project management, including construction supervision.

Hungry Hill CDC

For more information see: <http://www.hhcdc.org>

Geographic Target Area: Hungry Hill neighborhood of City of Springfield in Hampden County

As part of their mission to revitalize the Hungry Hill neighborhood of Springfield, Hungry Hill CDC conducts community needs assessments, develops and preserves affordable housing, provides homebuyer counseling services, revitalizes community parks and provides small business assistance. The organization was founded in 1993.

Nueva Esperanza

Carlos Vega, Executive Director

Geographic Target Area: City of Holyoke in Hampden County

Nueva Esperanza has been working to revitalize the downtown neighborhoods of the City of Holyoke for over 25 years. Nueva has adopted a community/economic development model with three components; housing development, social services and economic development. In addition to owning 344 units of new and rehabilitated rental housing, the organization also administers youth training, youth leadership, art education, health promotion and economic development programs.

Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation

Ann Dobrowolski, Community Development Specialist

Geographic Target Area: 27 towns in Berkshire County

Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) provides business technical assistance and loans; assists businesses in the City of Pittsfield with relocation and expansion efforts; conducts community economic development planning and revitalization activities; and works in coalition with a broad array of organizations and individuals to promote a vibrant cultural economy in Berkshire County.

Quaboag Valley CDC

Susan Rutherford, Executive Director

For more information see: <http://www.qvcdc.com>

Geographic Target Area: 15 towns in eastern Hampshire and Hampden Counties and western Worcester County

Quaboag Valley CDC seeks to improve the quality of life by addressing the economic, environmental, and social needs of its residents while maintaining the integrity and character of each community in the region. With its partner entity, the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, the organization provides training, technical assistance, and loans for small businesses; offers community-based computer training for small businesses and their employees, and other community residents; and conducts workforce training seminars to improve job readiness skills of unemployed and under-employed residents. Since 1995, the organization has made over \$2 million in loans to small businesses. QVDC also works in coalition to improve the cultural economy of the region, through the promotion of tourism and tourism based economic development projects.

Solutions CDC

Greg Schwartz, Executive Director

Geographic Target Area: Cities of Holyoke and Chicopee in Hampden County

Solutions Community Development Corporation seeks to increase the economic potential of the low-income residents of Holyoke and Chicopee. One of the first organizations in Massachusetts to implement an Individual Development Account (IDA) Program, its Financial Pathways program offers targeted financial planning assistance to residents, including budgeting and money management seminars, individual counseling and a Savings Club workshops. The Business Development Program offers intensive technical assistance, entrepreneurial training, alternative sources of financing, and cooperative marketing initiatives. The youth program features a YouthBridge Americorps program that trains and places community service Americorps members in non-profit agencies, and a Youth Entrepreneurship Program that trains out-of-school youth and after-school students in business management and job readiness, and will open a youth-managed internet-ice cream cafe in downtown Holyoke in early 2006.

Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Charles Rucks, Executive Director

Geographic Target Area: Pioneer Valley/Massachusetts

See: <http://www.springfieldnhs.org>

Since 1978, Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. (SNHS) has worked as a wealth creation agency to reverse the decline of homeownership, especially in low-income neighborhoods of the City of Springfield. As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), SNHS mission is to transform families and revitalizes distressed neighborhoods through sustainable homeownership, housing development and rehabilitation of blighted properties, and resident empowerment. The organization provides credit counseling, homebuyer education, and an array of mortgage products for all income ranges for anyone throughout the Pioneer Valley and Massachusetts. Since its inception, SNHS has been involved in the substantial rehabilitation of over 100 units of rental housing and has invested over \$30 million in capital to develop and preserve affordable housing. SNHS is a member of NeighborWorks® America – www.nw.org

Valley CDC

Joanne Campbell, Executive Director

For more information see: <http://www.valleycdc.com>

Geographic Target Area: Amherst, Easthampton, Hadley and Northampton in Hampshire County

Valley CDC seeks to empower low and moderate income people and minorities to control and improve the quality of their lives. The organization provides economic opportunities through small business assistance and access to loans; conducts pre- and post-purchase homeownership counseling, and offers housing repair loans to income-eligible residents of Northampton. Its financial literacy workshops help residents improve money management skills, budgeting, and learn the importance of credit, debt reduction, and consumer advocacy. Since 1988 Valley CDC has developed over 135 units of affordable rental and ownership housing; provided business technical assistance to well over 700 entrepreneurs; assisted over 2,000 homebuyers; and helped over twenty low income homeowners correct health and safety code violations in their homes.

Westfield CDC

Mark Noonan, Executive Director

For more information see: <http://westfieldcdc.org>

Geographic Target Area: City of Westfield, Hampden County

Westfield CDC undertakes strategic initiatives to improve the quality of life for all Westfield residents by encouraging economic development, providing opportunities to low- and moderate-income people, assisting small businesses, increasing employment opportunities and providing housing opportunities and assistance. Westfield CDC administers home repair and lead removal loans and is involved in the promotion of downtown cultural and improvement activities. The organization has also created a business incubator and is in the process of developing a mixed-use project in the downtown corridor including seven commercial units at street level and 19 units of affordable housing in the upper floors of 3 downtown buildings.

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