CRD Funds – Fiscal Year 2026

The Children's System of Care has historically made Community Resource Development (CRD) funds available to the Care Management Organizations (CMO) to support the development of resources that promote the resiliency of youth and families in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health. We are excited to announce the programs that have been funded for 2025-2026!

BERGEN

Family Touch Youth Family Program

Family Touch provides culturally tailored programs that support the social, emotional, and mental well-being of youth and families in Bergen County. Programs include evidence-based youth counseling, youth development initiatives like leadership camps and mentoring, and family strengthening workshops that improve communication and build resilience. Participants gain skills in emotional regulation, leadership, and healthy relationships, while families receive tools to create supportive and connected home environments.

BURLINGTON

Nu Nu Foundation: Igniting Potential, Transforming Futures

Nu Nu Foundation empowers youth ages 12-18 through hands-on STEM experiences that spark creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. Participants explore themes like robotics, environmental science, and computer programming in year-round "Boot Camp" sessions. Youth showcase their projects to peers, families, and the community, building confidence, teamwork, and practical skills while engaging in meaningful, educational enrichment.

Aspire Youth Development: Next Stop Career Program

Aspire Youth Development helps youth and young adults ages 16-21 gain essential career skills through hands-on experiences. Participants engage in a one-week Summer Career Prep Academy, learning resume building, interviewing, and job readiness, while touring local companies and exploring career paths. Additional Lunch & Learn workshops provide interactive sessions on goal setting, financial literacy, and professional development, preparing youth for success in the workforce.

CAMDEN

I Dare To Care

I Dare to Care empowers girls ages 7-18 through mentorship and youth development programs. Participants gain life skills, explore careers, build goal-setting and conflict resolution abilities, and receive academic support. Programs include group mentoring, homework help, fitness and yoga, field trips, and college/career exploration opportunities, fostering personal growth, confidence, and community engagement.

CAPE/ATLANTIC

Cape Assist – She Speaks Power

She Speaks Power empowers youth in the Greater Wildwood area through mentoring, peer support, and educational programming. The program provides a safe, inclusive space for youth to build protective factors, explore healthy life choices, and connect with supportive resources. Activities include after-school meetings, summer sessions, bi-monthly family workshops, field trips, guest speakers, and discussions that promote wellness, resilience, and community engagement.

No Limits Academy

No Limits Academy provides a safe and engaging after-school space for youth in Cape May and Atlantic Counties to build social, recreational, and mental wellness skills. Participants enjoy structured and open activities including homework help, fitness, boxing, sports, and field trips, all supported by mentors, coaches, and mental health specialists. The program fosters social connection, personal growth, and healthy lifestyle habits for youth in a supportive, fun environment.

Dennis Township School District

Dennis Township School District offers an after-school program for youth in grades 6-8 that combines outdoor activities, environmental education, and mental health support. Participants build self-esteem, resilience, and positive mental health while connecting with nature and their community. The program includes snacks, transportation, and concludes with a celebratory event.

CUMBERLAND/ GLOUCESTER/SALEM

United Advocacy Group (UAG)

United Advocacy Group offers after-school and summer mentoring programs for youth, providing guidance in goal setting, relationship building, emotional development, and personal advocacy. Participants engage in group mentoring, field trips, and community activities while receiving meals and transportation, supporting their growth, confidence, and connection to positive resources.

Revive South Jersey Police Athletic and Karate

Revive South Jersey Police Athletic and Karate offers small group Social Emotional Learning sessions using the Social Black Belt curriculum. Youth participate in engaging, skill-building activities twice a week to develop healthy coping strategies, resilience, and positive decision-making, helping them navigate challenges and build confidence.

ESSEX

Working Towards a Brighter Future

Working Towards a Brighter Future empowers youth and young adults ages 11-20 to build resilience across physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual domains. Through group discussions, hands-on activities, and outdoor experiences, participants strengthen self -awareness, confidence, and coping skills in a supportive, healing-centered environment.

Ironbound Community Corporation

Ironbound Community Corporation provides a safe and supportive after-school youth group for ages 11-13 in Newark's Ironbound community. The program promotes academic success, emotional well-being, and social connection through daily sessions focused on mental and physical health, positive behavior, and community engagement. Youth also benefit from workshops led by local partners, including the Newark Police and Essex County Prosecutor's Office, fostering resilience and empowerment.

HUDSON

She Is Incorporated: Building Stronger Bonds

She Is Incorporated empowers young girls and women through mentorship, education, and family-centered engagement. The program provides weekly psychoeducational and therapeutic group sessions for 40 female youth focused on communication, emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and personal growth. Families participate in recreational and experiential activities such as arts workshops, service projects, and community events that strengthen family bonds and support emotional wellness.

HUNTERDON/ SOMERSET/WARREN

Bloom and Grow Coaching

Bloom and Grow Coaching's Rise and Thrive Teen Support Group empowers teens ages 16-19 as they transition from high school to adulthood. The program serves 30 youth annually in three 10-week cohorts, offering 90-minute weekly sessions focused on job readiness, emotional resilience, and self-awareness. Teens explore diverse career paths – such as healthcare, education, law enforcement, trades, and social services – through interactive workshops and guest speakers. Participants gain CPR certification, guidance on post-secondary options, and access to internship opportunities at BGC for hands-on professional experience. The program equips teens with the tools and confidence needed to build a successful future.

Joseph Firth Youth Center

The Joseph Firth Youth Center promotes inclusion and family connection through "Stronger Together: An Inclusive Martial Arts Series with a Family Focus." This program provides youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families with a safe, welcoming space to engage in physical activity, social interaction, and family bonding. Offered once a week for six weeks in three sessions throughout the year, the 90-minute program includes martial arts instruction, sibling activities, and shared family dinners with games. "Stronger Together" helps families connect, build confidence, and enjoy inclusive enrichment without financial barriers.

MERCER

Holistic Behavioral Solutions

Holistic Behavioral Solutions provides one-to-one and small group mentoring for 150 at-risk youth ages 12-18 in Mercer County, offering consistent adult guidance and positive peer engagement. The program operates year-round, Monday through Friday, with weekend activities and weekly mentoring sessions focused on academic, social, and life skills development. Monthly workshops address topics such as financial literacy and conflict resolution, while optional family sessions strengthen parent-child relationships. Supported by trained mentors and clinicians using trauma-informed and culturally responsive approaches, the program empowers youth to build confidence, set goals, and form lasting connections within their community.

West Windsor Arts Program

West Windsor Arts provides tuition-free afterschool and weekend enrichment art classes for 72 children and teens ages 7-16 from Mercer County, focusing on youth with disabilities and those from low-income households. The 10-week series offers both standard and accessible art classes, including drawing, painting, sculpting, digital arts, acting, and singing. Led by professional teaching artists and supported by an Education Manager, the program fosters creativity, social skills, and inclusion in a supportive group environment.

MIDDLESEX

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen is expanding its community service initiative to include students and residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in its lunch-packing program for Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick. This enhanced program will add four additional packing events throughout the school year, engaging youth ages 18-21 from Metuchen High School's special education and transition classes. Participants will help prepare and decorate lunch bags, combining creativity with community service. This inclusive program fosters teamwork, compassion, and a sense of contribution while supporting local residents in need.

Guazabara Insights

Guazabara Insights aims to prevent court involvement and reduce recidivism by expanding its successful Hudson County programming to serve at-risk youth ages 10-21 in Middlesex County. The program engages participants through in-person and virtual group sessions that promote education, mental health awareness, economic independence, and career exploration. Over an eight-week series, youth participate in interactive workshops led by community leaders and professionals across industries, focusing on life skills, goal setting, and personal growth. By providing mentorship, structure, and positive role models, the program empowers youth to make constructive choices and build pathways toward success.

MONMOUTH

Koncoius Youth Development

Koncoius Youth Development is an impactful, year-long initiative serving 15-20 high school youth ages 14-19 from underserved communities in Monmouth County. Meeting 2-4 times monthly at the Conscious Community Center in Asbury Park, the program provides trauma-informed resources to help youth build resilience, self-awareness, and leadership skills as they navigate challenges like mental health struggles and a tech-driven world. Core activities include Restorative Practices and Healing-informed Care, Leadership & Entrepreneurship Development, education on Conscious Technology Use, and Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Support, all delivered by trained staff and enhanced by community engagement with local organizations.

Mental Health Association of Monmouth County

The Mental Health Association of Monmouth County will offer a youth peer support program for ages 12-14, designed to promote wellness, self-awareness, and social connection. The 10-week psychoeducational sessions, held throughout the year, will engage up to 80 youth in activities based on the Teen Compass Wellness Workbook. Each session will focus on topics such as emotional well-being, self-care, and healthy coping skills through discussion and interactive exercises. Youth will also create personalized “self-care bags” to reinforce positive habits. Graduates of the program will have the opportunity to return as peer mentors, building leadership and community among participants.

MORRIS/SUSSEX

Special Needs Athletic Program

The Special Needs Athletic Program (SNAP) is an inclusive initiative that promotes the confidence, self-esteem, and social connections of children with special needs ages 5-18 through weekly, noncompetitive sports clinics, pet therapy, and educational programs. The program also positively impacts teen volunteers ages 12-19 who serve as support participants, gaining empathy and a sense of purpose. SNAP provides dedicated mental health support for caregivers through the “Peace for Parents” room, offering a supportive space for connection and relaxation while their children participate.

Morris Arts Council – Life Center Stage

The Morris Arts – Life Center Stage program, in partnership with the Making Art in Public Space Project, is a year-long Arts in Health Initiative designed to empower 75 youth affected by behavioral and emotional mental health challenges and substance misuse disorder. Operating with a low-barrier, non-clinical approach, the program will deliver an average of three arts workshops or events monthly in public spaces across Morris and Sussex Counties, such as parks, libraries, and community centers. Youth will choose from various art forms, including collaborative songwriting, expressive writing, visual art, and performance, to foster self-expression, social interaction, and emotional growth. The program will culminate in at least two public “awareness expos” to celebrate participants’ accomplishments and reinforce stigma-free communities.

OCEAN

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run of Central New Jersey is a proven, evidence-based program that utilizes physical activity to build resilience, positive peer relationships, and self-respect for girls in 3rd-8th grade. Meeting twice a week, trained coaches deliver a curriculum focused on goal-setting and emotional management. The season concludes with a celebratory, non-competitive 5k race event.

PASSAIC

Broreavement

Broreavement has enhanced its grief support programs for 85 to 110 men and boys in Passaic County, addressing the critical unmet need for targeted mental health services. Hosted at The Circle at the Center City Mall in Paterson, the program runs a 12-month grief support curriculum with weekly group sessions, focusing on emotional regulation, anger management, and character development to help participants navigate grief, build resilience, and combat stigmas. Services also include monthly support groups, psychoeducation classes, and special events like cooking classes and art therapy workshops to foster community, healing, and ongoing support for youth and families.

Jewish Family and Children's Services

Jewish Family and Children's Services is now offering trauma-informed, culturally responsive art therapy services throughout the year for approximately 18 children ages 3-17 with special needs, particularly those on the autism spectrum who have experienced violence or abuse. The program provides a comprehensive service that includes 10 one-on-one art therapy sessions per child to process trauma and develop coping strategies, along with small, structured group sessions focusing on social skills and emotional regulation. Crucially, the program also supports 30 families and caregivers through monthly workshops designed to teach trauma-informed care and management of challenging behaviors, ensuring a holistic approach to healing and support.

Special Dragons

Special Dragons provides essential tuition scholarships for 20 new or returning students ages 5-21 with a special needs diagnosis who have demonstrated financial hardship. Since 2012, Special Dragons has utilized karate techniques in one-day a week, tailored sessions to successfully improve challenges such as hand-eye coordination, motor control, focus, and time on task. The program's goal is to go beyond physical skills to build basic life skills, self-confidence, and social skills, while also encouraging bonding time within families, ensuring these vital therapeutic and empowering services remain accessible to those who need them most.

UNION

Somerset County YMCA: Saturdays in Motion

The Somerset County YMCA has expanded its Saturdays in Motion (SIM) program, a long-running, two-hour recreational session for 30 youth ages 3-17 diagnosed with autism. Running twice a month, the program provides engaging recreational activities – including sports, dance, and arts and crafts – led by trained volunteers, with siblings also welcome to participate. SIM is designed to improve the health and well-being of youth while also fulfilling the critical need for caregiver respite, providing parents with a quiet room to relax while remaining on site.