

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

BEST Coalition

\$628,275

Danville Regional Foundation awarded \$628,275 over three years to the BEST (Building Economic Success Together) Coalition. Members of the Coalition include United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County, Pittsylvania County Community Action, Virginia Legal Aid Society, and Caswell County Senior Center. The grant will build financial literacy among low-income families in the region and increase the income of these families by expanding free tax preparation sites which will result in increased Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds.

EITC provides families with additional income they can direct toward savings, education, debt reduction, or other important uses. The Coalition expects to increase the available refund amount in the region to over \$13 million.

The Coalition will increase the economic base of Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Caswell County; conduct outreach activities that reach low income clients; increase awareness of EITC availability and eligibility; increase awareness of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites; conduct classes to empower clients with the ability to e-file and gain EITC for themselves; educate people about how to develop a budget and save for future expenses; and increase awareness against predatory lenders and rapid anticipations loans for vulnerable populations.

Free Clinic of Danville

\$1,400,000

Danville Regional Foundation awarded a \$1.4 million grant over a five year period to the Free Clinic of Danville to increase the organization's capacity to fulfill its mission of providing health care services to the uninsured in the area. The grant will enable the organization to stabilize its current financial condition, become a model safety net provider, and pursue a developmental process that will allow it to attain a long-term increase in capacity.

Funds will be used to hire a full-time Nurse Practitioner, Executive Director, and Clinical Director. Also, the grant will provide professional assistance in the development of a long-range business plan including benchmarks for the measurement of its progress.

**Industrial Development Authority of the City of Danville
\$2,000,000**

A two-year grant in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the Danville Regional Foundation to the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Danville (IDA) is part of the performance agreement between Com.40 Ltd., the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Danville, and the IDA. The recruitment of Com. 40 Ltd. will stimulate new economic growth by creating a significant number of good job opportunities for lower skilled and less educated members of the workforce, who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of industry closings and consolidations over the past few years. In addition, Com. 40 Ltd. is re-using an 800,000 square foot building that has been vacant for some time. The total project involves the creation of 813 jobs and a capital investment of \$36,300,000 over a seven year period.

**Danville Community College and Piedmont Community College
Pathways for Success: A Cross-Border Collaboration
\$1,850,355**

Danville Regional Foundation awarded \$1,850,355 over a period of 27 months to Danville Community College and Piedmont Community College to provide additional assistance to students receiving benefits from the North America Free Trade Agreement (Trade Act). The grant will allow the community colleges to take the Trade Act to the next level with a custom approach to meet the individual needs of each student and therefore increase the student success rate.

Called "Pathways for Success: A Cross-Border Collaboration," the funds will be used to help Trade Act students continue their studies to earn a degree, diploma or certificate in their program of study. More than 330 students - 260 at DCC and 70 at PCC - are projected to benefit from this initiative.

The specialized services the two colleges plan to provide include:

1. Supplemental unemployment needs-based payments - available to students who require extended benefits.
2. Health insurance assistance – Federal regulations currently require students to pay 35 percent of the premium, with Trade Act paying 65 percent. The Pathways for Success initiative will cover 25 percent of the total premium with students paying only 10 percent.
3. Educational costs – assist students who want to train in career fields not covered under Trade Act regulations, such as nurse assisting, medical technician, truck driver, rural entrepreneurship, advanced computer skills or business ownership.
4. Career Readiness Certification assistance – opportunity for skills assessment and to earn bronze, silver or gold certification.

5. Student transportation assistance – for students whose Trade Act benefits have been exhausted.
6. Case management /job placement support – will be provided at each college.

During the first three months, policies and procedures will be developed and personnel hired, including a full-time coordinator, two case managers, and two financial services assistants. The projected start date for the program is May 2008.

With this initiative, DCC and PCC intend on being a model program in identifying the needs of Trade Act affected workers and in developing services to meet these needs

YMCA of Danville

Assessing Opportunities for a New Danville YMCA and Community Needs in the City of Danville

\$47,000

The YMCA will hire a research firm to assess opportunities for a new Danville YMCA and to study community need in the City of Danville and surrounding areas. The scope of work will include an assessment of demand, location, programming and member services, marketplace, pricing, and partnerships. Another component of the study will survey community needs and general interest in non-YMCA program and services as well as general location preference.

Community Foundation of the Dan River Region (CFDRR)

\$1,500,000

Danville Regional Foundation Fund

An award of \$1,500,000 over a three year period was made to the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region to continue the Danville Regional Foundation Fund. The fund, which will receive a declining level of support each year, is used to make smaller grants to non-profit and governmental organizations in the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County (VA) and Caswell County (NC). Fifty percent of the fund is designated for Healthcare/Human Services with the remaining fifty percent for Emergency Relief, Cultural Development, Education, and Youth and Families. The fund responds to immediate needs of the community.