

Targeted Grants

Each year, the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation provides more than \$1,500,000 of support in grants to community-based organizations working for progress on a specific issue or set of issues facing the communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire within the Eastern Bank footprint. Grants to these organizations are referred to as **Targeted Grants**. They are intended to support programming that strengthen our communities and enhance the lives of our neighbors in specific and impactful ways.

Over the past few years, we have supported organizations addressing issues related to: Community Healthcare, Homelessness, Workforce Development, Student Success, and Violence Prevention.

For 2017, the Targeted Grant category of the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation will be:

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

To most of us, imagining a life in a foreign country, limited in our ability to understand & speak a new language, faced with the difficulties of securing employment & a safe place to live, while leaving the support of family & friends behind, is downright daunting. It takes a lot of courage, and faith in the US, to pull up stakes and venture to our shores. Many are victims of oppression, totalitarian rule, trauma, crime, and poverty. All are coming here for the promise of a better life for themselves and their families. The same way generations of Americans came to be here.

A large number of Eastern employees are immigrants or sons, daughters, or grandchildren of immigrants. Massachusetts has 1 Million foreign-born residents out of the Commonwealth's 6.7 Million people. In New Hampshire, there are 75,000 foreign-born residents out of the State's 1.3 Million residents. It is important to note that without immigration, both states would have seen a net outmigration in population.

Through this year's Targeted Grant program we intend to support organizations in eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire supporting immigrants and their families in search of their American dream. The needs are great and varied. Examples of the type of programming we intend to support include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Aid for unaccompanied youth and separated families**
- Assistance for people seeking asylum**
- Citizenship classes**
- Cultural awareness and celebration**
- Culturally-competent delivery of professional services**
- Education and advocacy on immigration rights**
- English for Speakers of Other Languages and Adult Basic Education support**
- Promoting the path to citizenship**
- Refugee resettlement**
- Support for securing work with family-sustaining wages**
- Training support for immigrants serving in US Military or Veterans**