



PRUDENTIAL COMMUNITY

GRANTS PROGRAM

Awards Celebration

April 29, 2026



HIGHLIGHTING THE VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY GRANT

The Prudential Community Grants Program provides local organizations and individuals with micro-grants to support projects that create vibrancy in their neighborhoods.

These community-based organizations and individuals are the people who are closest to the challenges and have created solutions that directly respond to the needs of their neighborhoods.

THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Community Foundation of New Jersey
Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District
Mantena Global Care
La Casa de Don Pedro

BRICK
Unified Vailsburg Services Organization
The Ridgeland Group

The Prudential Community Grants program proudly recognizes awardees from each Ward for their outstanding contributions to enhancing the quality of life and fostering community development throughout the city.



CENTRAL WARD

All In Her Designs

A three-day workshop that teaches jewelry makers to experiment with new materials and techniques through hands-on, interdisciplinary training.

Amina Bey Civic Association

A youth civic education academy that teaches Newark students how local government works and prepares them to participate in organizing, voting, and social change.

ANE CLOTHIER LLC

A community festival that showcases fashion, arts, DJs, and local small businesses while creating opportunities and networking for Newark creatives.

bunkr.

A monthly OPEN DECKS series that gives DJs a supportive, open mic-style platform to perform, connect with other DJs, and build their careers.

Convos of the Youth

Equipping Newark high school girls with emotional resilience, communication, media skills, and career exposure to thrive academically and economically.

Debra Smith – Stitching Newark

A three-month, beginner-friendly sewing program that teaches Newark residents practical sewing and clothing repair skills while fostering creativity and community connection.

The Dove Consulting LLC

Hosting two free Grant Readiness Workshops that train Newark nonprofit leaders on how to prepare for, apply for, and manage private grants.

Dr. Jazmin Puicon – Innovative Newark

A course where students study Newark's history and work in teams to design and present community-based solutions to local problems.

Dr. Linda McDonald Carter, Esq – Roots Foundation

A mentorship and civic engagement program that pairs Newark high school seniors with professional mentors, civic workshops, and volunteer service to build community connection before college.

Erin D. Bush – Shop Newark Storytelling Pop-Up

A one-day content studio that provides Newark small businesses with professional photos and short-form videos to boost visibility and growth.

Femme X Boxing

A community wellness program that combines boxing-based movement with facilitated conversation and shared meals to support women's healing, connection, and stress relief.

Grounded Music Education

A DJ workshop that teaches students mixing, software skills, and music business basics while expanding access to equipment and program capacity.

CENTRAL WARD *(continued)*

Harlem Cycle

Offering weekly indoor cycling classes to improve heart health and make fitness accessible to Newark residents seeking more affordable fitness options.

Have You Met Newark LLC

Public walking tours and in-person workshops that explore Newark's history, neighborhoods, and culture while bringing residents and visitors together.

HYCIDE

Arts and wellness program that offers workshops in yoga, photography, and filmmaking to support emotional healing and build income-generating creative skills for Newark residents.

KST Network

Creating a short-form documentary series that highlights the personal stories of Newark residents, creatives, and small-business owners through interviews about mental health, identity, healing, and community.

LaMonica McIver Civic Association

A year-round community support initiative that connects Central Ward residents with essential resources, youth scholarships, civic education, and leadership programs.

Mr. Tod's Pies

Creating a permanent public mural on Branford Place that promotes unity, neighborhood pride, and community connection through accessible public art.

PBS STEAM

A STEAM-focused game design program that teaches youth video game development through workshops, mentorship, and exposure events.

Peter Chapman – UrCanvas

A free, public art activation that transforms community spaces into open air galleries, uplifting local artists and small businesses while expanding access to inclusive cultural experiences.

Pooka Pure & Simple

A scent science lab experience where children learn basic STEM concepts by creating custom perfumes and colognes in a hands on, interactive setting at a Newark store.

Returning Citizens Support Group

Providing a digital literacy course for returning citizens that teaches essential technology and job-readiness skills, with laptops awarded to recent participants upon completion.

Slim Suli Art LLC

A three-part visual arts workshop called "WORD 2 ART" for ages 9-13 that combines literacy and creativity by transforming words and inspirational quotes into individual artworks and a collaborative mural.

Tendril Healthcare Services

Providing free, curated art supply kits and guided creative activities to students that can benefit from additional arts resources to support creative expression and social emotional learning.

YBGEnterprise (Young,Black,&Gifted)

A citywide Youth Day, a community campaign that connects Newark youth and families with mentorship, educational support, wellness resources, and local services in a safe, welcoming environment.

EAST WARD

Aline Emmanuelle Adriano Pereira Rocha

Launching the Ironbound Community Street Library Initiative and installing 10 outdoor book houses to provide thousands of free books to Newark's immigrant communities and expand access to multilingual literacy.

Artur Candido Barbosa Silva

Creating and distributing multilingual digital materials that teach Newark youth how to build an emergency fund as a foundation for financial stability.

Brazilian Clothes LLC

Weekly community wellness pilot that combines theater, dance, fitness, and nutrition education for Newark families, culminating in a public showcase and wellness celebration.

Brick City Rowing

A year-round youth rowing program on the Passaic River that combines competitive athletics with swimming instruction, water safety, academic tutoring, and community health training.

F/Design Solutions

Workforce training program that teaches young adults graphic design, apparel printing, and customer service skills inside a working print shop to support employment and opportunities.

Heavenly School of Music and Arts

An eight-week summer program that teaches children violin and ballet, providing each participant with an instrument and dance attire to expand access to arts education.

Ivette Rosario – Ironbound in Bloom

A summer neighborhood beautification initiative that invites residents to nominate well-maintained homes and businesses, recognizing winners with small awards, and celebrates them at a community reception.

Jose Rodrigues Sobrinho – Friends for Life Community Crop Knowledge

Creating a community garden in Newark that grows fresh produce, offers free gardening classes, and shares harvests with local families while building food self-sufficiency and community collaboration.

Kmonae & Kompany

A creator bootcamp that teaches Newark youth how to build, market, and ethically monetize creative content while developing professional digital and workforce skills.

EAST WARD *(continued)*

Makina Baseball Academy

A youth baseball academy for Newark students that builds skills, teamwork, and confidence through structured training, mentorship, and positive competition.

Maria Edi de César Goes

Community sewing program that teaches basic and intermediate sewing skills to support workforce development, self-sufficiency, and economic empowerment.

Martha Baez

Providing consistent, nutritious snacks and light meals for children attending free piano lessons at Pennington Court to support focus, participation, and learning.

Mia Sologashvil – The Neighborhood Micro Forest Initiative

Converting underutilized lots into fast-growing native mini forests to reduce heat and flooding while engaging Newark residents in hands-on environmental stewardship and expanding neighborhood greenery.

Pan American Caribbean Boxing Organization of Newark, NJ

After-school boxing training and mentorship for Newark youth to build fitness, discipline, and competitive skills.

Plusable LLC

A culinary symposium that brings together local chefs, restaurants, entrepreneurs, and culinary students for networking, panels, and celebration of Newark's diverse food culture.

Third Pentecostal Church Alpha y Omega

Upgrading and equipping a community food distribution space at Third Pentecostal Church Alpha and Omega to safely and dignifiedly provide groceries and other essentials to Ironbound residents.

Traditional Karate of Newark

A martial arts program that builds discipline, confidence, leadership, and anti-bullying skills.

Vera Reis Photo Studio and Events LLC

Producing "Beautiful for EVER," an annual empowerment pageant and workshop series celebrating the resilience and stories of women over 40, especially cancer survivors.

NORTH WARD

Ailema LLC

Summer fashion program where teens design and sew a mini clothing collection and showcase their work in a final runway show.

All About the Seniors and Kids Inc

The Clippers & Community Initiative provides on site haircuts, essentials, and coordinated health, shelter, and documentation services to support Newark residents experiencing housing instability.

AI-Munir LLC

A consulting and technical assistance program that helps grassroots organizations and emerging nonprofits strengthen governance, planning, funding readiness, and long-term sustainability.

The Balanced Diet LLC

A community garden–based nutrition program that provides fresh produce and hands-on nutrition education to Newark residents, led by a registered dietitian.

Desfile y Festival Cultural Dominicano del Condado de Essex

A community program that celebrates Dominican culture through a parade, festivals, youth leadership activities, community workshops, and women’s empowerment programming.

EnSound Media, LLC

A media arts center that trains residents to interview, record, edit, and publish community podcasts and micro stories that amplify local voices.

F.A.M.E. Foundation (Film Arts Music Education)

Filmmaking workshop that teaches Newark high school students the basics of directing, writing, shooting, and editing to create their own short films.

Friends of Historic Mount Pleasant, Inc.

A family-friendly Halloween history tour and trick-or-treat event at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, bringing Newark’s history to life through costumed interpreters and interactive storytelling.

La Voz Community Engagement

Expanding a neighborhood watch around Newark schools to improve student safety along busy walking corridors during arrival and dismissal times.

MADCOOL Community Inc.

An eight-week health and leadership program that helps adolescent girls build mental and physical wellness, confidence, and leadership skills through education, technology, and peer support.

Mentor U Connect

A monthly bilingual family literacy program at Cafecitos, a café in Newark where children and families read together with college students and community mentors.

NJ Legal Tools Company

A digital platform and training program that helps Newark immigrant families access trusted legal information, safety guidance, and community resources.

North Porch Women & Infants’ Centers

North Porch’s Baby Basics Program supports families with infants by providing consistent access to diapers, formula, baby food, and essential supplies year round.

Para KIDS LLC

A bilingual literacy program for Newark students in grades 3–6 that builds English reading skills, emotional awareness, and cultural pride through Spanish-English literature and creative activities.

Rafeeza Shahabudeen

Installing mini libraries, activity stations, and healthy snack areas inside Newark laundromats to turn waiting time into learning time for children and families.

NORTH WARD *(continued)*

Rita Moyano

Installing a 24/7, self-service food kiosk that provides fresh, refrigerated, and shelf-stable food for free to Newark residents who can benefit from additional food support.

The Sunny Institute (formerly Wellness Inside Out)

Monthly wellness and professional development series that supports Newark mental health providers through education, skill-building, movement-based wellness, and peer connection.

Time of My Life Corp

A trauma-informed program that helps adults and young parents understand past childhood experiences and build healthier coping, decision-making, and life skills through workshops and peer support.

Timothy Hoey Newark Tours

Hosts guided walking tours of the Forest Hill Historic District that highlight Newark's architectural heritage, neighborhood history, and community pride.

Urban New Direction Development Corporation Center

A community-centered after-school program that provides Newark children with safe supervision, homework help, enrichment activities, physical play, and nutritious snacks.

SOUTH WARD

Apiary in the Sky, LLC

A beekeeping and food education program that hosts hands-on community events and trains new beekeepers to strengthen environmental learning, wellness, and local honey production in Newark's South Ward.

Bergen Street Crafters

Brings people together weekly through crochet and handmade crafts to reduce stress and create items that support Newark residents and community partners.

Break Infinite

Hosts a neighborhood breaking cypher series across the city, culminating with a large flagship event in Lincoln Park.

Bridging the Blocks Association

Delivering mobile computer training in Newark senior buildings to help older adults gain essential digital skills like email, online payments, Zoom, and cybersecurity.

Changing Paths

An eight-week summer literacy and mentoring program that uses bedtime stories and guided discussion to build reading skills, confidence, and positive decision-making for Newark youth.

Complex Vision Inc

Hosts a summer youth basketball league honoring James “Kaboobie” Sedgwick, providing safe recreation and mentorship for Newark youth.

Dollhouse Unlimited LLC

A Newark-based talk show and performance series featuring roundtable conversations, guest interviews, artist performances, and community mixers.

Drama With A Twist

An expressive arts program delivered in a Newark emergency shelter that uses trauma-informed creative activities to support healing and emotional well-being for adults, with parallel arts care for children.

G.I.R.L.S. Academy, Inc (Girls in Real Life Situations)

A four-session Mommy and Me: Hearts in Harmony program that brings mothers and young girls together through bonding activities that build confidence, emotional intelligence, and strong family connections.

Giving One Tenth Community Garden

An eight-week eco-creative workshop series at a community garden where Newark residents create art, learn sustainable gardening practices, and help beautify shared green spaces.

Jackie Robinson South Ward Little League

A seasonal youth wrestling program in Newark that provides structured practices and competitive matches during the football offseason.

Land of Abundance Foundation

A virtual cultural exchange that connects Newark and Negril high school students through biweekly workshops focused on leadership, life skills, and cross-cultural learning.

Linda Washington

Beautifying a senior housing property by planting flowers and revitalizing outdoor spaces to create calming, welcoming areas for residents.

Lower Goldsmith Block Association

Launching a multigenerational community orchestra in Weequahic that performs genre-blending music at local parks and neighborhood events.

New Freedom Legacy

A digital skills and civic technology training program that helps Newark residents gain foundational tech skills and apply them to local community challenges.

Off The Rock, LLC

Hosts a program that teaches young people practical skills and career pathways in music, media, fashion, and creative entrepreneurship through classes led by industry professionals.

Rising Stars Football and Mentoring Camp

A youth program that provides Newark children with sports, dance, academic tutoring, mentorship, and enrichment activities in a safe, supportive environment.

SOUTH WARD *(continued)*

South Ward Special Improvement District

Installing permanent lighting in an underutilized lot to transform it into a safe, usable pocket park and community event space in Newark's South Ward.

STEAM for ME NJ Inc

Hosting a citywide STEAM career expo that connects Newark youth and families with hands-on activities, mentors, colleges, and employers to explore education and career pathways.

Trilogy: An Opera Company

Youth-centered opera project that engages Newark youth in creating and performing a production while building workforce and leadership skills.

Vulcan Pioneers of NJ

Advancing opportunities and professional development for Black firefighters and Newark residents through advocacy, leadership, and community empowerment.

Weequahic Park Association

A literacy program that includes youth zine workshops and a StoryWalk trail in Weequahic Park to promote reading, creativity, and community connection.

Woodland Cemetery Company

Restoring and beautifying Woodland Cemetery by clearing overgrowth, repairing fencing, resetting headstones, preventing illegal dumping, and expanding ecological initiatives like beekeeping.

Zelma M. Crump

Hosting a one-day luncheon that brings together parents and caregivers of children with autism for connection, encouragement, self-care resources, and community support.

WEST WARD

Algorithm EDU

Providing families with math learning resources and tools so parents can help their children build math skills at home.

Ann Williams – Neighbor Check-In Circle

The program recruits volunteers to make weekly calls and visits to seniors and residents who can benefit from extra connection and support, providing companionship, care kits, and regular wellness check ins.

Cynthia Thompson

Hosting a four-week hybrid workshop series that helps Newark educators and caregivers build calm, structured routines to reduce behavioral challenges at home and in classrooms.

Fashionable Fashions Designers Academy

A hands-on sewing and fashion design program that teaches girls and women foundational skills to build confidence, creativity, and pathways to entrepreneurship.

Heart of Vailsburg Garden Committee

Strengthening and expanding a long-standing community garden in Vailsburg to grow fresh food, support neighborhood programming, and activate shared green space.

The Legacy of S. Tenth (L.O.S.T.) Block Association

A resident-led neighborhood association and annual summer block party that serves as a community celebration and resource hub for jobs, services, and youth programming.

Peers Understanding Strategies to Healing

Hosting violence-free community block parties that create safe spaces for youth and families to gather, heal, and connect to resources in Newark neighborhoods.

Rare Gems Community Development Corporation

A summer youth program that teaches cooking and STEAM-based life skills to promote healthy habits, reliable access to nutritious food, creativity, and violence prevention.

Shana Ginsberg – Youth Sensory Garden

An outdoor learning garden program at the Vailsburg Branch Library where youth and community members learn to grow, use, and understand healthy food through hands on, sensory based activities.

The Three Doctors Foundation

A career-readiness initiative at University High School that connects students with mentors and provides access to SkillsBuild courses and industry exposure.

Trilogy Wealth Partners

Running a four-week startup build sprint that helps Newark residents use AI tools to turn ideas into working software products.

Values 4 Life Inc.

Installing custom street banners along the West Side corridor to beautify the neighborhood and highlight community pride, local organizations, and small businesses.

VIRAL Debates LLC

Training Newark youth to research local history, lead a public walking tour of seven historic sites, and publish a legacy book documenting their findings.

