

History and Mission

The Sills Family Foundation is governed by a board of three family member directors and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative.

The Sills Family Foundation's primary grants program intends to help children from low income families live up to their highest promise by concentrating on the following four areas:

- 1) Comprehensive support for families in crisis, with a special focus on children with incarcerated parents
- 2) Early and elementary childhood education that includes family supports such as medical care and parent education
- 3) Environmental justice, with a focus on contaminants that harm the developing embryo, fetus and infant
- 4) Arts and Culture programs that utilize education and other creative opportunities to support underserved populations.

2014 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview

In 2014, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$1,502,000, a significant increase from the 2013 total of \$1,177,700. Of this, the Board awarded \$846,000 through its core grantmaking process, \$226,000 through a special capacity building program, \$150,000 through its Arts & Culture grantmaking initiative, \$180,000 as trustee directed discretionary grants, and \$100,000 through a mission driven selection process managed by a group of next generation foundation members. The remainder was 2013 grants that were paid out by the Foundation in 2014. The Foundation awarded grants to a total of 34 organizations through its core grantmaking program, 9 Arts & Culture grants, 6 capacity building and 7 next generation grants in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, California, Washington State, and Jamaica.

The Foundation primarily makes general operating grants, allowing grantees to use the funds as needed, as opposed to being limited to a particular budget line. Grantees report that this degree of flexibility is uncommon and has been particularly useful during the economic downturn. This year the Foundation has also been able to make additional one-time capacity building grants to long-standing grantees.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to focus on programs for families impacted by the criminal justice system. The Foundation has begun to play a role in deepening policy makers and service providers capacity in this field. One of the Directors serves on the steering committee for the New York Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents. This year the Sills Family Foundation funded an annotated bibliography of recent data related to best practices for families impacted by incarceration. This document was highlighted at a convening of practitioners and policy makers at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In the coming year the Directors will continue to engage other interested funders to share knowledge, and to encourage engagement with this vulnerable population

In 2012, the Foundation added an additional focus area, supporting Arts and Cultural Organizations in the greater NY area. This year was the third round of grants in this area, and will be increasing in the next year. The Sills Family Foundation focuses in particular on organizations that strengthen the intersection of arts, culture and social justice. Many of these grantees utilize arts education as a means to support students in underserved schools and neighborhoods.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to support environmental justice organizations, as well as organizations doing critical work in providing services to families in crisis, and ensuring that the youngest children of families in poverty are receiving high quality early education.

The Foundation's second generation is deepening its engagement in the grantmaking process, and has determined that future grants will be directed towards at risk youth and environmental issues. Grants will be made on both the east and west coasts.

Sills 2014 Strategic Grants

Grant descriptions are organized by primary focus areas.

Incarcerated Mothers and their Children

Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind Little Rock, AR

Arkansas Voices was granted \$5,000 to support their Family Matters Program. Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind is a twenty-year old direct service, advocacy and training organization with a mission of achieving justice for children of the incarcerated and their family members. The Family Matters Program is a direct service program that works with the children and families of women incarcerated in three facilities in Arkansas. Through the program, family advocates serve as family mentors while the parents are incarcerated and continuing after their release, with a goal of increasing the stability of the family, pre and post-incarceration of the parent. (First year of funding)

❖ The Center for Children and Families, Columbia University School of Nursing New York, NY and Burlington, VT

The Center for Children and Families was awarded \$25,000 to support the implementation and evaluation of the Shared Parenting program at Lund (Vermont). Shared Parenting uses professionally facilitated group process to strengthen the co-parenting relationship of incarcerated mothers and the guardians of their children in the community. The project has two objectives. First, to qualitatively and measurably enhance the base of knowledge being developed at the Columbia University Center for Children and Families about the dynamics of triadic relationships in families impacted by maternal separation due to incarceration and/or residential substance abuse treatment. Second, to support development of supportive interventions specifically designed for the caregivers of children whose mothers receive reunification support services from agencies where Shared Parenting has already been implemented and established. (Third year of funding)

CircleBarre, VT

Circle was granted \$25,000 to develop housing options and programming for battered women charged with crimes and formally incarcerated women reentering Washington County. Circle has taken numerous steps towards integrating gender-responsive strategies,

especially those connected to strengthening relationships among children, family, and the community. Through continued research and development, Circle will implement gender sensitive services to incorporate programming and community connections that will increase the rate of successful reentry for incarcerated women. Continued funding from the Sills Family Foundation will allow Circle to build on this foundational work so that its shelter and services respond to transitioning women's needs. Expenses include portions of salaries and benefits of key shelter staff, shelter resident fund, and material and supply costs. (*Twelfth year of funding*)

Community Works West Berkeley, CA

Community Works West (CWW) received \$50,000 to support the One Family Program and Prison Project. One Family is a family strengthening initiative that provides parenting education and meaningful and consistent opportunities for parents to stay connected with their families through periods of incarceration. Funding will provide parenting education using Parenting Inside Out, an evidence-based cognitive-behavioral parenting curriculum. Community Works will also offer complementary range of family strengthening services, including supervised family visits and parent support groups. The programs will be located in Solano prison and at the California Institute for Women in Corona, CA; San Francisco County Jail and at three post release sites. In the coming year, CWW will focus on expanding the one family program to more prisons, serve more participants and they will pilot a program for spouses and significant others of incarcerated individuals. (Seventh year of funding)

Greenhope East Harlem, NY

Greenhope received \$25,000 for general operating support for the Rising Mothers Program and overall Family Services Program associated with the Child Development Center. The mission of Greenhope Services for Women is to empower women involved in substance absue and the criminal justice system to reclaim their lives, reunite with their families, and rebuild their communities. Over the years, Greenhope has expanded its work to include not only services for women on parole, but also women referred by the courts as an alternative to incarceration (ATI) and women formt eh community seeking substance-abuse and methal health treatment, trauma counseling, housing, family reunification services, job training and employment and related services. The specific focus of the Rising Mothers Program, a key component of the Family Services Department, is to provide a therapeutic environment and appropriate support services to begin the process of healing the wounds of attachment disruption between incarcerated mothers and their children and families. (Fourth year of funding)

Hour Children, Inc. Long Island City and Bedford Hills, NY

Hour Children was awarded a \$50,000 grant for community and prison-based programming. \$25,000 of the grant will support Hour Children's general operating budget, contributing to the costs of various community-based programs, including: transitional (4 buildings) and permanent (3 buildings) supportive housing for "Hour" families; Hour Working Women's Program (job skills training and employment placement support); mental health support; a fully-licensed day care center; an after-school program; thrift shop; mentoring program and

other programs. The remaining \$25,000 will be allocated to support Hour Children's Centers of Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities, including transportation and visitation programs, parenting education, advocacy, a Teen program, and residential Nursery unit with an infant care center at Bedford Hills. The mission of Hour Children is to help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families, and build healthy, independent and secure lives. (*Twelfth year funding Hour Children*; sixth year funding CCBH)

Housing + Solutions, Inc. Brooklyn, NY

Housing + Solutions received a \$25,000 of funding for Family Services, to provide professional family therapy, addiction counseling and trauma therapy to thirty-five families currently living in its permanent housing programs. The overall goal of the organization is that individual responsibility coupled with group support will help each woman (and family) to gain the skills and confidence needed to take ownership of their problems, the solutions, and motivate participants to overcome obstacles and make positive life choices. Past funding from the Sills Family Foundation supported Drew House, a supportive housing community for women who are first-time (non-violent) felony offenders and their children. (Third year of funding)

JustLeadership USA New York, NY

JustLeadership USA (JLUSA) was awarded \$20,000 of general operating support to build capacity in leadership development, advocacy, and membership. JLUSA believes that a meaningful tipping point in criminal justice reform will be possible only when the voices of those most impacted have been heard and their expertise infused into the national reform movement. JLUSA is dedicated to cutting the US prison population in half by 2030 while reducing crime. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. In the coming year, during JLUSA's start-up phase the team will focus on developing and supporting formerly incarcerated leaders; drive policy advocacy efforts on the federal, state and local levels; and build and sustain an engaged national membership. Funds will be used to partially fund the costs of its leadership development program, hire advocacy staff, and build the infrastructure necessary to support membership. (First year of Funding)

Lund Family Center Burlington, Vermont

Lund Family Center was awarded \$25,000 to support the Kids-A-Part Parenting Program (KAPP). The Kids-A-Part Parenting Program, the only program of its kind in Vermont, seeks to reduce the trauma children experience as a result of a mother's incarceration. The program provides support to maintain contact between mothers and their children that reflects the needs of the child, engages with children and caregivers during the mother's incarceration and links them to appropriate services; and prepares mothers to return to the community, exploring and planning for their role as mother. (Eighth year funding KAPP)

Northern Lights (a program of The Howard Center) Burlington, VT

The Northern Lights Program (NL) at the Howard Center was awarded a \$16,000 grant for general operating support to sustain its efforts to provide housing and support to women transitioning from prison back to the community. Northern Lights houses 11 women at a time for seven to twenty month stays, where they are supported by community providers, service providers, and each other as they develop skills, reconnect with their children, seek employment, improve their health, and make positive connections. Residents meet regularly with their team of service providers and play an active role in the development of their case plan. Northern Lights' mission is to provide the opportunity for returning female offenders to build the foundation necessary for long-term safety and independence for themselves and their families. (Seventh year of funding)

The Osborne Association Bronx, NY

The Osborne Association received \$25,000 for continued support of Children & Youth Services to children with incarcerated parents, including the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and Youth Leadership Program (YLP). The Osborne Association provides family, educational, vocational, treatment and health services to meet the changing needs of those affected by crime and criminal justice system in the U.S. In recent years, Osborne has expanded upon its traditionally adult services to address the issues faced by the young people directly impacted by incarceration. Osborne's Children and Youth Services includes a mixture of after school and weekend programming designed to reduce the common feelings of isolation experienced by children who have an incarcerated parent and build upon their internal assets. (Ninth year of funding)

Pernet Family Health Service, Inc. Worcester, MA

Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support the Incarcerated Fathers Program, which promotes responsible fathering through counseling support groups at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction and three other locations in Worcester, MA. The program is based on three curricula for inmate fathers: Houses of Healing, Inside-Out Dads and the Nurturing Fathers Program. The program also seeks to serve the families of incarcerated fathers those who may have returned to the home within the last six months and who want to be a part of their child's life. Over the course of one year this program positively impacts over 50 families by improving parenting skills and nurturing a healthy relationship between fathers and their children regardless of incarceration. Funding will specifically support the expansion of the program to provide safe, supportive, and structured in-home or community-based programming for fathers recently released from jail. (Fourth year of funding)

St. Mary's Women and Children's Center Dorchester, MA

St. Mary's was granted \$25,000 to support the Incarceration Impact Initiative, allowing staff to determine the full scope of families' needs and to identify ways to support them and their relationships with family members. Staff has received training to better understand

the feelings, behaviors and challenges that result from the traumatic experiences and attachment disruptions that come with incarceration. Past funding has helped strengthen St. Mary's infrastructure to work with this population, and St. Mary's will expand upon this with more issue-informed support. Funding will support the Incarceration Impact Initiative and provide support groups for women and children, transportation and other resources that are not covered by public contracts. (*Tenth year of funding*)

Save Our Streets Crown Heights (The Fund for the City of New York) New York, NY

SOS Crown Heights was awarded \$30,000 to support the reduction of gun violence in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. The program is a replication of the Cure Violence anti-gun program model that has been shown to successfully reduce shootings and killings and features five primary components: outreach, public education, community mobilization, faith-based engagement, and use of data. Each outreach worker carries a caseload of up to 15 participants. After identifying and engaging participants, outreach workers help them develop a risk reduction plan that may include anger management, drug treatment, educational support, health services, criminal justice services, or job-training. Outreach workers maintain regular contact with participants, offering them guidance about how to navigate conflicts and engage them in positive activities. Funding will support the program's outreach efforts to divert high-risk individuals from gun violence, which includes 4 SOS outreach workers and 4 violence interrupters. (Second year of funding)

South End Community Health Center Boston, MA

South End Community Health Center (SECHC) was awarded \$25,000 for expansion of re-entry services for women who are currently incarcerated and women who are newly released from corrections. Funding will support an extension of the Partnership to Opportunities for Women in Re-entry (POWR) Program which is collaboration between SECHC and Project Place. The central goal of this program is to help women leaving incarceration, find housing, employment and access medical and behavioral healthcare. In recent years, the POWR program has adopted a model with a complimentary clinical focus to treat trauma with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Project Place and SECHC have integrated services such as job training, employment placement, hands-on case management and physical and behavioral health care services to facilitate a fresh start for women by utilizing a "wrap around" model. (First year of funding)

Strategies for Youth Cambridge, MA

Strategies for Youth received \$25,000 to promote best practices for police-youth interactions. Founded in 2009, Strategies for Youth is a national advocacy and training organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions and reducing disproportionate minority contact. SFY's mission is to promote a youth development approach among law enforcement officers and to expand age-appropriate interventions for youth, while equipping both officers and youth with the tools they need to interact positively. SFY advocates for reduced reliance on the juvenile justice system for minor offenses, and is the only national organization that approaches this issue both from a juvenile justice and from a youth development perspective. Last year, the Foundation provided funding to support the

creation of standards and training for law enforcement arresting parents in the presence of children. (Second year of funding)

StreetSafe Boston (an initiative of the Boston Foundation) Boston, MA

StreetSafe Boston was awarded \$25,000 in support of its Streetworker Violence Intervention Strategy. StreetSafe aims to contribute to a reduction of violence in Boston by focusing interventions on approximately 20 of the city's most active gangs in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by gang violence. The multi-faceted program includes individual skill-building and competencies, conflict mediation, pro-social development, and access to work and training opportunities. In the coming year, StreetSafe Boston will transition from The Boston Foundation and will merge with the City of Boston's Centers for Youth and Families youth anti-violence efforts. (Second year of funding)

Vera Institute of Justice New York City, NY

Vera Institute of Justice received \$25,000 to support Common Justice (CJ), a participatory justice project in Brooklyn that brings together the victim, the perpetrator, family and community members impacted by a crime for a face-to-face dialogue to determine an appropriate response to the harm caused. The project, launched in 2009, aims to transform the system's response to serious crime by offering an opportunity for dialogue and healing, as an alternative to a lengthy prison term. The process is designed to make things as right as possible for those harmed by crime, and to hold those responsible accountable to a set of agreements that replace an otherwise lengthy prison term. CJ engages and screens participants, provides urgent and long-term services to harmed parties, prepares parties for their conference, convenes the conferences and supervises responsible parties' completion of the emerging agreements. Funding will allow Common Justice to maintain a case load at full capacity, strengthen its men's groups (M.O.V.E.), and support existing and new staff serve the anticipated increase in cases. (Fourth year of funding)

Voice of the Ex-Offender (VOTE) New Orleans, LA

VOTE was awarded \$25,000 in general operating support to continue its work increasing civic engagement of Formerly Incarcerated Persons and their families and supporting the economic sustainability and empowerment of these families. Its mission, vision and theory of social change are focused on lifting up, resourcing and strengthening the voice and power of communities most affected by mass incarceration. VOTE accomplishes its work through grassroots organizing, building coalitions, investing time and resources in collaborative efforts, and prioritizing movement building. VOTE was founded and is run by Formerly Incarcerated Persons in partnership with allies dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against Formerly Incarcerated Persons. (Second year of funding)

Volunteers of Legal Services New York, NY

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) received \$25,000 for the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project (IMLP), to provide incarcerated mothers with access to volunteer attorneys and law

students. These attorneys and law students visit incarcerated mothers on a monthly basis and provide them with a wide range of critical legal services. As an organization, VOLS leverages the good will, resources and talents of New York City's leading law firms to provide pro bono legal assistance to the city's neediest residents. In 2012, over 800 attorneys from 44 of the most well respected law firms in New York City volunteered through the VOLS projects, providing pro bono assistance to more than 3,000 low-income New Yorkers. (First year of funding)

Women's Prison Association New York

The Women's Prison Association received a \$25,000 grant for general operating support, for criminal justice-involved women and their families. It will provide the flexibility to implement new, innovative programs and enhancements to current services not support through more restrictive funding, and to increase programs' alignment with WPA's mission and responsiveness to the needs of clients. Funding will support a continuum of services to help women re-join their communities, reunite with their families and establish fulfilling, law-abiding lives after a period of incarceration. WPA's approach prioritizes working collaboratively with women and families toward defining their own goals, laying out plans to achieve them, and taking advantage of an expanded realm of resources and opportunities. WPA received an additional \$10,000 matching grant from the Sills Family Foundation in March 2014. WPA's programs and services help women address the factors that put them at risk of criminal justice-involvement including substance abuse, mental illness, a history of abusive relationships, unemployment and poverty. (Eleventh year of funding)

Families in Crisis

Community Connections for Youth Bronx, NY

Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) received \$25,000 for general operating support for leadership development, demonstration projects, and training and technical assistance to further the organization's mission. CCFY is a Brox-based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower grassroots faith and neighborhood organization to develop effective community-driven alternative-to- incarceration (ATI) programs for youth. This year, CCFY implemented a continuum of family strengthening services, including support groups, parenting workshops, advocacy training and a family cooking program. CCFY is leveraging the skill of its network by hiring parents impacted by the system to serve as advocates for families currently navigating the courts. Past funding has supported the South Bronx Community Connections initiative (SBCC), which mobilizes grassroots faith and neighborhood organization in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx to divert youth from further juvenile justice system involvement. (Third year of funding)

Dartmouth College: Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth Hanover, NH

The Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD) program was granted \$25,000 to support the Bronx cohort through year three of the 4 phase/year program. The SEAD program empowers promising high school students from under-resourced backgrounds to thrive in high school and college, and provides Dartmouth students transformative opportunities for service and leadership. For its high school students, SEAD encourages academic preparedness and personal growth through specially designed courses, year-round mentoring, and extensive interactions with successful college students. For its Dartmouth staff and volunteers, SEAD offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn with others that have different, and often challenging, life experiences. (First year of funding)

Julie's Family Learning Program South Boston, MA

Julie's Family Learning Program was awarded \$25,000 to support general operations of the Adult and Children's Services. Julie's is dedicated to helping low-income children and their mothers break the cycle of poverty, and has been providing comprehensive family support and education programs for low-income families in crisis in South Boston for over 30 years. The grant will help support integrated services including high quality child-care, Montessori pre-school, and parenting and life skills education. Robert Monahan recently transitioned into the position of Executive Director and co-founders, Sisters Jean and Louise, will assume the responsibility or running the new Family Wellness and Support Program. The Family Wellness and Support Program, which will be launched this year, will provide counseling and recreational activities to additional women who are not yet ready to enroll in the full Julie's Family Learning Center Program. (Tenth year of funding)

❖ Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services East Harlem, New York

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services (LSA) received \$25,000 to support enhancement of Home-Based with Socialization (HBS), LSA's early childhood education program, for infants/toddlers, who are growing up in adversity in East Harlem. LSA's mission is to provide pre and post natal services and early childhood education to "the poorest of the poor". Funding will support the HBS Program, which prepares children for pre-school by teaching the skills that enable them to successfully transition into pre-k/Head Start, with a level of readiness that facilitates future scholastic advancement. In the coming year, LSA will focus on increasing the frequency and number of weekly socializing group sessions. (First year of funding)

Parents Helping Parents Watertown, MA

Parents Helping Parents received \$10,000 in support for the Prison Parent Support Group, to further its mission of empowering parents to nurture children and prevent child abuse. PHP was founded in 1979 under the name Parents Anonymous of Massachusetts to prevent child abuse by developing a network of mutual support groups for parents who are isolated, overwhelmed, or too ashamed to ask for help from traditional social service agencies. Currently, the organization offers twenty-three support groups around the state of Massachusetts that served more than 250 parents in 2012. In the past year, Parents Helping Parents far exceeded their goal of opening 2 new support groups for incarcerated parents, and are now running four groups, which have served over 80 parents this year. (Second year of funding)

STEPS to End Family Violence (Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families) New York, NY

STEPS to End Family Violence was awarded \$25,000 for the Children's Therapy Program, which provides therapeutic interventions for children between the ages of 0 and 12 to help address the symptoms of trauma experienced after witnessing family and domestic violence. Individual therapy is the primary intervention for children older than five, but STEPS also incorporates family and parent support sessions to provide comprehensive treatment. In addition to family work, STEPS facilitates a Children's Group (ages 6-11) which helps participants realize that they are not alone in their experience of family violence, as well as the evidence-informed Parenting Journey group for parents to reflect on their own experiences in order to identify both constructive and destructive patterns that they may be repeating as parents. This year STEPS enrolled 51 children in the Children's Therapy Program and they plan to enroll another 45-50 children in the coming year. STEPS also plans to facilitate two 12-week children's groups and three Parenting Journey groups and expand offerings to the Manhattan Family Justice Center. (Tenth year of funding)

❖ Youth Represent

New York, NY

Youth Represent received \$20,000 for general operating funds, to support comprehensive legal representation to young, low-income New Yorkers. Youth Represent's approach is three-pronged: they partner with social service organizations across New York; provide

direct representation to youth in various legal arenas; and advocate to change laws to make it possible for court-involved New Yorkers to reenter society. Funding will support direct services and policy work; enable the organization to focus on expanding their client base within New York City; and further their advocacy efforts for New York to increase public safety while protecting the state's most vulnerable youth. (First year of funding)

Environmental Justice

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights New Orleans, LA

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights was granted \$25,000 for general operating support. AEHR's mission is to uphold the human right to live in a health environment. AEHR holds companies and the government accountable when this right is violated, and they advocate for public policy that support this right. General operating funds will be used to manage a fact-finding mission in the Mossville, LA human rights case; manage legislative intervention that blocks the gutting of health and safety requirements currently in regulations for the cleanup of contaminated sites; and support the strong human rights activism by groups and communities working with AEHR on climate justice. (Eleventh year of funding)

Alternatives for Community and Environment Roxbury, MA

Alternatives for Community and Environment received a \$25,000 grant for continued support of the *Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project* (REEP), which nurtures youth development and leadership through an environmental justice curriculum, organizing and membership program, and youth-led campaigns in Roxbury, Dorchester, and across the City of Boston. Funds from the Sills Family Foundation will allow REEP to support six to eight paid youth organizers who meet four times each week to coordinate events and conduct youth-led environmental justice campaigns. REEP provides personal, academic and career support for young people, including support for court-involved youth, through informal mental, academic, and emotional support. 20+ members are now actively participating & leading REEP's campaigns alone, meeting bi-weekly in 3 campaign committees, with 40-50 more who are easily mobilized for actions & events. An annual Youth Summit brings over 300 young people together for youth-led workshops and networking every July. The mission of ACE is to empower communities of color low-income populations to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environment justice. (*Eleventh year of funding*)

Coming Clean Brattleboro, VT

Coming Clean received a \$25,000 general operating grant to help define the vision, focus, strategies, and tactics of the toxics and environmental health and justice movement. Coming Clean works to transform economic injustices, racial discrimination, and pollution-related health disparities into environmental justice, economic justice, social justice and better democracy. In the coming year, Coming Clean is a collaborative of more than 200 organization and 350 organizers from around the US and the globe working in specific joint campaigns and projects to target multiple aspects of critical pollution and chemical exposure problems. Collaborative leaders and participants design and execute projects through seven inter-connected workgroups: Business, Economy & Jobs; Communications; Emerging Technologies; Energy & Chemicals; Fenceline Action; Markets; and Policy Integration. Funding will especially support leadership needs of Coming Clean's EJ/Fenceline Action Workgroup, campaign planning, and programmatic work. (*Third year of funding*)

Mercury Policy Project Montpelier, VT

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a \$25,000 grant to continue to expand the Zero Mercury Campaign - Exposure Awareness and Reduction efforts, which seeks to reduce consumer exposure to mercury from the consumption of commercially caught fish, particularly among pregnant women, young children, and disadvantaged populations who subsist on low incomes. Specifically, the campaign engages in research and awareness projects informing families and schools on the risks of mercury exposure, monitoring FDA standards, and seeking to inform developing countries about seafood testing and mercury risks. In the coming year, MPP will primarily focus on strengthening federal policies to protect sensitive populations from MeHg exposure. (Eleventh year of funding)

Mossville Environmental Action Now Mossville, LA

Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN) received a \$10,000 grant for general operating, which will fund its ongoing efforts to hold local industrial plants accountable for negative health effects caused by toxic pollution in the community. MEAN leads the effort to fight for the health of the Mossville community, but this year MEAN's role expanded to include advocating for a fair and just relocation plan for Mossville residents. Past Sills funding has been used to support health fairs and symposiums to raise awareness of the connection between pollution and health; fund the travel of environmental health experts to come and make presentations to the local health professionals in the community; offer free screenings to local residents; continue shareholder activism work; and execute the community's soil testing. (Seventh year of funding)

West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. New York. NY

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) was granted a \$25,000 grant for the Child Safe Products Act Advocacy Campaign. WE ACT is a non-profit, community-based membership organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT's model prioritizes community organizing, education and training, advocacy and research, and public policy development. Funds will specifically support efforts to advocate for the passage of the Child Safe Products Act in New York State, which will require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to publish a list of chemicals of high concern. Products containing these chemicals pose high health risks and if passed, this bill will require that all such products be reported to the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse and, by 2018, be prohibited from being sold in New York state. (Seventh year of funding; first grant after a three year hiatus)

Sills 2014 Arts and Culture Grants

ArtsWestchester White Plains, NY

ArtsWestchester was awarded a \$20,000 grant for the Artist Residency Program for Senior Citizens and a \$5,000 grant to support two multi-session art workshops at Westhab's PEAK afterschool program. The Artist Residency Program for Senior Citizens provides four multi-session performing, visual and/or art residencies at low-income, county subsidized senior residences in Mount Vernon; while the artists residences at WestHab's Peak Center's goal is to improve self-esteem in at-risk youth The artist residencies are designed to foster socialization by bringing people together for a shared, art-making experience. The artist residencies engage participants in challenging, creative, and productive activities such as designing jewelry, making a mural, participating in creative movement or an oral history project. The sessions are designed to encourage conversation and interaction, as well as reinforce cognitive and social skills. (Third year of funding)

Brooklyn Academy of Music Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Academy of Music received a \$15,000 grant in support of Arts & Justice, an after-school arts program that engages at-risk high-school students in a multimedia theater arts curriculum encouraging reflection on social justice and inequality. The program works with students with direct experience with the justice system or loved ones who have been incarcerated, to help participants develop the skills necessary to overcome obstacles, build critical and creative thinking skills, and thrive socially and academically. Students meet up to three days per week after school, explore the theme (This year: Youth in Crisis globally) by developing their own creative work guided by a team of expert teaching artists. The program concludes with a final presentation and publication of a printed anthology showcasing student accomplishments. This year, BAM will build upon the multimedia components piloted in 2013-14, which will allow program students to gain multiple perspectives on social justice issues and engage with a more diverse body of peers and professionals and connect more directly to BAM mainstage programming. (Third year of funding)

Brooklyn Ballet Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Ballet was awarded a grant of \$20,000 to continue the Brooklyn Ballet in the Houses program for the 2015-16 school year. The program brings ballet into public schools and provides between 60 and 180 2nd, 3rd, and 6th graders at each school take part in five weeks of free, in-school ballet classes taught by Brooklyn Ballet teaching artists. Students learn to choreograph their own pieces and begin to explore the immense creative, emotional, and physical benefits of dance. Problem solving, comparison and contrast, verbal clarification of movement, and analysis are all addressed in fun yet challenging ways. Brooklyn Ballet is a professional, not-for-profit dance company dedicated to artistic excellence and education, reflecting Brooklyn's diverse communities. (First year of funding)

Brooklyn Museum of Art Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Museum of Art received a grant for \$12,000 to provide support for the art education school partnership program with PS1, an elementary school located in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. Support will enable the Museum to continue to offer their multivisit art-making program, which utilizes the Museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions to strengthen learning of classroom curricula for teachers and students. In the next year, the program will serve approximately 270 students and 10 teachers in 2nd and 3rd grade, and provide students and teachers with opportunities for sustained exposure to the visual arts as a way to promote lifelong engagement. The Brooklyn Museum's mission is to act as a bridge between the rich artistic heritage of world cultures, as embodied in its collections, and the unique experience of each visitor. (*Third year of funding*)

Brooklyn Public Library Brooklyn, NY

The Brooklyn Public Library was awarded an \$18,000 grant for its Creative Aging programs serving older adults throughout Brooklyn. Since its launch, Creative Aging has become a core program among BPL's services for older adults providing much needed structured opportunities to learn, create and socialize for nearly 500 older adults. The program is based on a vision for mobilizing the trusted, neutral, information-rich public space of the library to deliver arts education for and with older adults by building effective collaborations between teaching artists and librarians. Teaching artists and librarians find that they share a vision for positive aging and bring complementary strengths to designing and implementing meaningful programs for older adults. In the coming year, BPL hopes to implement 11 Creative Aging programs, of which three would be multilingual, and serve a minimum of 165 older adults. (Second year of funding)

Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy (BYCA) received a \$15,000 grant for its financial aid expansion initiative, to significantly expand access to BYCA's world-class programs among low-income New York City young people. Founded in 1992, BYCA is dedicated to offering music training and choral performances to enrich the lives of its students and community. Through music study and professional-level performances, BYCA unites children of diverse backgrounds and helps them develop into confident and expressive musicians and individuals. In 2014-15, a restructuring of BYCA's training divisions and a growing Neighborhood Expansion Program is enabling BYCA to increase the number of students served, reaching a milestone of enrolling 500 choristers. Sills funding will support BYCA's financial aid commitments to ensure continued service to all students without regard to their ability to pay. (First year of funding)

Community Word Project New York, NY

Community Word Project was awarded \$20,000 for its Collaborative Arts Residency Program. The program provides a sustained experience in the arts that helps students develop lifelong tools and skills including literacy, creative thinking, teamwork, and public speaking, to

unlock creative potential and prepare them to take their places as leaders. CWP works closely with partnering teachers to integrate into the classroom curriculum and provides weekly workshops that integrate individual and collaborative creative writing, visual arts, photography, music/rhythm, and performance to ensure that every student can experience success. In the coming year, Community Word Project will expand its reach to include 64 classrooms at 18 public schools and community sites, with the goal of helping more than 1,850 underserved students develop their individual and collective voices in 2014-15. (Third year of funding)

Groundswell Brooklyn, NY

Groundswell was granted \$15,000 for core support of its public artmaking programs and college access and success initiative, College Inquiry. Groundswell's extensive afterschool programs and summer intensives engage economically-disadvantaged NYC youth in the creation of public art for their communities. Programs are open to all students regardless of artistic ability and offer young people opportunities to pursue artistic excellence. From introductory programs for court-involved youth, to summer mural intensives, to in-depth afterschool apprenticeships, to a proven Portfolio Development program, Groundswell enables young people from the most economically disadvantaged backgrounds to excel. College Inquiry will help prepare youth for college and careers by teaching them strong work habits, providing them with resources to navigate life's challenges, and deepening their relationship to their community and the world. Groundswell's mission is to bring together artists, youth, and community organizations to use art as a tool for social change. In the coming year, Groundswell will focus on continuing to expand the Scaffold UP and College Inquire Programs, as well as the opportunities offered for court involved youth. (Third year of funding)

Shakespeare Society Brooklyn, NY

Shakespeare Society received a \$15,000 grant in support of The Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders from the Hunts Point neighborhood spend the school year exploring, researching and performing a Shakespearean play. This year's selection will be *Twelfth Night*. Through a combination of close reading, comprehension activities, and acting and rehearsal techniques students will develop their capacity for teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. Ensemble members work with the original text, learning to read, comprehend, speak, memorize, and perform a Shakespeare play. Students who participate in the program are better prepared for future academic and creative pursuits and allow the young actors to share their accomplishments through community performance. (Second year of funding)

Sills 2014 Capacity Building Grants

CircleBarre, VT

Circle received a three-year capacity building grant of \$105,000. This year, Circle was awarded \$46,000 of the three-year grant for the development and implementation of a new strategic plan. Circle is facing a transitional period, primarily due to the unfortunate and unstoppable ageing of a number of long-term staff and board members. Funding will allow the organization to take the time to examine its current status, look into the future, and implement changes to ensure that the organization is upholding its mission of ending domestic violence in a more reflective manner, while simultaneously increasing its ability to positively impact the lives and communities Circle serves.

Hour Children, Inc. Long Island City, NY

Hour Children received a three-year capacity building grant of \$150,000. This year, Hour Children was awarded \$50,000 of the three-year grant to support and solidify efforts to renovate and repair the facilities used by the supportive housing programs. Funding will be used specifically for renovations of the 11-bedroom house in Richmond Hill (Queens) that Hour Children recently obtained from the Sisters of St. Joseph. The building needs considerable renovations and repairs before it can be reoccupied. Once completed, this building will provide housing for several families and a number of women without children. Hour Children hopes to begin this project this fall. In future years, Hour Children will use funds to repair two of their other facilities that are in need of repairs.

Julie's Family Learning Program South Boston, MA

Julie's Family Learning Program (JFLP) received a two-year capacity building grant of \$80,000. This year, JFLP was awarded \$50,000 to enhance fundraising capacity and support the transition from a "Founders" model to an Executive Director model. Funds will be used specifically to double the number of hours of the Development Associate in the hopes of securing more revenue and expand JFLP's social networking Platform. Funds will also be used to support the transition from the co-founders to the new Executive Director. This process will include planning sessions, staff reorientation, and funding to retain JFLP's co-founders in a part time capacity to design and implement the new Family Wellness and Support Program.

St. Mary's Center for Women and Children Dorchester, MA

St. Mary's Center for Women and Children (St. Mary's) received a two- year grant of \$40,000. This year, St. Mary's was awarded \$20,000 for a strategic planning process and development of an impact measurement infrastructure, which will enable St. Mary's to respond to the increasing social, clinical, and educational needs of families. St. Mary's plans to move from informally "doing quality" in its programs to a more strategic, structured measurement of its work that will identify indicators of client success and evaluate the

organization's effectiveness. This process will allow St. Mary's to greatly improve its effectiveness in operations and build its capacity to efficiently and effectively support families.

Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families/STEPS to End Family Violence New York, NY

Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families/STEPS to End Family Violence (STEPS) received a three-year grant of \$90,000. This year, STEPS was awarded \$30,000 to strengthen overall internal evaluation and reporting capacity through the design of program specific logic models; the identification of evaluation measures and tools; and the development of method to efficiently collect and analyze information. During the first phase of this process, STEPS will hire a part-time consultant to work with STEPS to develop logic models and identify appropriate assessment instruments. STEPS also hopes to identify a set of tools that can be applied throughout all programs that will be efficiently implemented by staff.

Women's Prison Association New York, NY

Women's Prison Association (WPA) received a three-year capacity building grant of \$90,000. This year, WPA was awarded \$30,000 to strengthen and expand the volunteer-led client services and WPA's Women Care Program. WPA will expand client services and streamline the way they manage volunteerism by hiring a Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator will be responsible for community outreach; and screening, training, scheduling and tracking of volunteers. WPA anticipates positive outcomes for clients as well as volunteers. Last year, Sills Family Foundation awarded WPA a capacity building grant to further staff and organizational development by further implementing Moving On: A Program for At-Risk Women.

Sills 2014 Next Generation Grants

Brooklyn School of Collaborative Studies Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn School of Collaborative Studies (BCS) was granted \$15,000 for the 6th and 9th Grade Wilderness Expedition. Through this program 70 incoming 6th graders will participate in a three-day wilderness team-building and camping expedition and 70 incoming 9th graders in a five-day expedition. On these expeditions students have experiences in the wilderness, outside of the urban environment and, "learn to become stewards of the earth and of future generations". BCS is a diverse and respectful Expeditionary Learning School, committed to developing students and staff who are kind, open-minded, persistent, responsible, and courageous. BCS serves over 700 public school students from the urban area, 70% of whom come from families living in poverty. (First year of funding)

Community Works West - Project WHAT! Berkeley, CA

Community Works West was awarded \$16,000 for Project WHAT! (We're Here and Talking), a leadership development and job-training program for young people with an incarcerated parent. Project WHAT! raises awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on young people with the long-term goal of improving services and policies affecting these children. It is the only program in California that hires children of incarcerated parents to train social workers, mental health professionals, policy makers and administrators about issues relating to this population. In the coming year, Project WHAT! will launch two major projects. They will be preparing for the San Francisco Board of Supervisor's hearing on recommendations for policies regarding children of the incarcerated in January 2015; and they will also be working on "The Alcatraz Project", a youth developed art installation and series of presentations at the National Park. The Sills grant will provide funding for a part-time facilitator who will be hired to coordinate the East Bay cohort and to supervise two Peer Mentors at that location. (Fourth year of funding for Next Gen, Seventh year for foundation)

Getting Out and Staying Out New York, NY

Getting Out and Staying Out (GoSo) received a \$16,000 grant to support general operating for a range of supportive services to justice-involved young men from the five boroughs of New York City. These services provide participants with the tools and support they need to live up to their full potential, and to help them to overcome the stigma of their involvement with the justice system. GoSo was established in 2004 to level the playing field for justice-involved young men and is unique in providing continuity of services to participants from initial incarceration to full reintegration into the community. The mission of GoSo is to empower young men to avoid reinvolvement in the criminal justice system by reshaping their futures through educational achievement, meaningful employment, and financial independence. Funding from the Sills Family Foundation will be used to fund the Career

Manager position, who will be coordinating the expansion of the mentoring program in the community-based program in East Harlem. (Second year of funding)

Green Chimneys Children's Services Brewster, NY

Green Chimneys received \$5,000 for the Career Readiness Program for runaway homeless and foster care youth identifying as LGBTQ or Allied and help them transition to successful independent living. The Career Readiness Program is part of Green Chimneys Transitional Living Program, an eight-bed facility that provides housing for homeless youth, medical care, education, life skills and mentoring to underserved youth. These youth have experienced intense discrimination at home, at school and in the community and often they feel isolated, lack self-esteem and suffer from depression. Career Readiness supports the development of individual, interpersonal, and professional skills through workshops, retreats, internships and networking. The program provides critical independent living life skills and career skill sets that will enhance job possibilities for youth and contribute to ending a cycle of poverty. (Third and final year of funding)

Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth Oakland, CA

Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) was awarded \$16,000 for general operating support for its work in interrupting the cycle of violence and over incarceration through restorative justice. Founded in 2005, RJOY promotes public shifts toward restorative approaches to youthful wrongdoing that actively engage families, communities, and systems to heal harm. A fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, RJOY engages in policy advocacy, training, and programming. Through school-based restorative justice strategies, RJOY seeks to significantly reduce violence, suspensions and expulsions, and create a more caring and closely-knit school community. Last year RJOY launched a Circles of Support and Accountability pilot, using a model that has proven effective in reducing recidivism and helping formerly incarcerated individuals re-enter their communities as productive citizens. This coming year, RJOY will launch, in collaboration with the school district, an RJ youth leadership program to elevate youth voice and promote youth agency. (Second year of funding)

Safe Passages Oakland, CA

Safe Passages was granted \$16,000 for general operating support to enhance and update communications materials. Safe Passages' mission is to disrupt the cycle of poverty by engaging youth and families to build and drive a continuum of services that supports student success and community development. Safe Passages programs span the age continuum of children and youth including: an Early Childhood Initiative, School Linked Services Program and a Juvenile Justice and College to Career Program. Safe Passages envisions a community where all young people have the opportunity to realize their full potential. Safe Passages is based on the premises that access to educational opportunity, health services, and family support should not be dictated by race or socio-economic status, and hat healthy and supported young people are better prepared to learn and succeed. (First year of funding)

United Community Centers Brooklyn, NY

United Community Centers (UCC) was awarded \$16,000 for the East New York Farms! Project (ENYF), to organize youth and adult residents to address food justice in the community by promoting local sustainable agriculture and community-led economic development. ENYF began in 1995 and currently has four integrated programs that focus on: increasing access to and markets for fresh foods, creating and supporting gardens, education and outreach and youth engagement. For the past 60 years, UCC's mission has been two-fold: to provide needed services to families, adults and young people, and to involve residents of all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds in efforts to collectively address and resolve community issues. Funding will be used to support ENYF's four program areas. (First year of funding)

Sills 2014 Grants Summary

Strategic Grants

	Name of Organization	2014 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
1	Advocates for Environmental Human Rights	General operating	\$25,000
2	Alternatives for Community and Environment	Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)	\$25,000
3	Arkansas Voices	Family Matters	\$5,000
4	Center for Children and Families, Columbia University School of Nursing	Shared Parenting	\$25,000
5	Circle	Housing Options and Programming for Battered Women Charged with Crimes	\$25,000
6	Coming Clean	leveraging chemicals energy and climate campaigns	\$25,000
7	Community Connections for Youth	General operating	\$25,000
8	Community Works West	One Family Prison Project & One Family Program	\$50,000
9	Dartmouth College - Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD)	SEAD	\$25,000
10	Fund for the City of New York	SOS Crown Heights	\$30,000
11	Greenhope Services for Women	General operating	\$25,000
12	Hour Children, Inc.	Community and prison-based programming	\$50,000
13	Housing + Solutions	Family services	\$25,000
14	Howard Center	Northern Lights Program	\$16,000
15	JustLeadership USA	General operating	\$20,000
16	Julie's Family Learning Program	Adult and Children's Services	\$25,000
17	Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service	Enhancement of early childhood education program	\$25,000
18	Lund	Kids-A-Part Program	\$25,000
19	Mercury Policy Project	"Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign	\$25,000
20	Mossville Environmental Action Now	General operating	\$10,000
21	Osborne Association	Children and Youth Services	\$25,000
22	Parents Helping Parents	Prison Parent Support Groups	\$10,000
23	Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	Incarcerated Fathers Family Reunification Initiative	\$25,000
24	South End Community Health Center	Expansion of Re-entry Services for Women	\$25,000
25	St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	Incarceration Impact Initiative	\$25,000
26	STEPS to End Family Violence (Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families)	Children's Therapy Program	\$25,000
27	Strategies for Youth, Inc.	Promoting best practices for police- youth interactions	\$25,000
28	StreetSafe Boston (The Boston Foundation)	Street Safe Boston	\$25,000
29	Vera Institute of Justice	Common Justice	\$25,000
30	Voice Of The Ex-offender	General operating	\$25,000
31	Volunteers of Legal Service	Incarcerated Mothers Law Project	\$25,000

32	West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.	Child Safe Products Act Advocacy Campaign	\$25,000
33	Women's Prison Association	General operating	\$35,000*
34	Youth Represent	General operating	\$20,000
		Total Strategic Grants:	\$846,000

^{*}Includes a matching grant of \$10,000

Arts and Culture Grants

Name of Organization	2014 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount	
ArtsWestchester	Residency Program for Senior Citizens	\$20,000	
Brooklyn Academy of Music	Arts and Justice Program	\$15,000	
Brooklyn Ballet	Brooklyn Ballet in the Houses Program	\$20,000	
Brooklyn Museum	School Partnership: Brooklyn Museum and PS 1		
Brooklyn Public Library	Creative Aging Program	\$18,000	
Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy	Financial Aid Expansion Initiative	\$15,000	
Community-Word Project	Collaborative Arts Residency Program in Schools	\$20,000	
Groundswell	Public Artmaking Programs and College Inquiry Program	\$15,000	
The Shakespeare Society	The Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble	\$15,000	
	Total Arts and Culture Grants:	\$150,000	

Capacity Building Grants

Name of Organization	2014 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
Circle	Strategic planning	\$46,000
Hour Children, Inc.	Renovations and repairs to the facilities used by the supportive housing programs.	\$50,000
Julie's Family Learning Program	Enhance fundraising capacity	\$50,000
St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	Strategic planning	\$20,000
STEPS to End Family Violence/Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families	Strengthening overall internal evaluation and reporting capacity	\$30,000
Women's Prison Association	Strengthen and expand volunteer-led client services	\$30,000
	Total Capacity Building Grants:	\$226,000

Next Generation Grants

Name of Organization	2014 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
	6th and 9th Grade Wilderness	
Brooklyn School of Collaborative Studies	Expedition	\$15,000
Community Works West	Project WHAT!	\$16,000
General operating for Career Manage		
Getting Out and Staying Out, Inc.	position	\$16,000
Green Chimneys	Career Readiness Program	\$5,000
RJOY	General operating expenses	\$16,000
Safe Passages	General operating	\$16,000
United Community Centers, Inc.	East New York Farms! Program	\$16,000
	Total Next Generation Grants:	\$100,000

2014 Trustee Discretionary Grants

The 3 trustees of the Sills Family Foundation made a total of 23 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$2,500 to \$25,000, and totaling \$180,000.

Art Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Academy of the City Charter School	\$5,000
Cambridge Friends School	\$25,000
Colby College	\$5,000
Eugene Bell Foundation	\$5,000
JDRF	\$5,000
School Is Open	\$5,000
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports	\$10,000

Peter Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Children's Defense Fund	\$2,500
Children's Aid Society	\$2,500
The Doula Program to Accompany and Comfort - Visiting program for terminally ill patients	\$10,000
Girl Scouts of America - Troop 3060 The Castle Bridge School after-school program	\$5,000
Jewish Community Center of Mercer Island Washington Scholarships for disadvantaged youth	\$5,000
Just Leadership USA	\$5,000
Literacy for Incarcerated Teens	\$10,000
Rutgers University Foundation Reach summer college program for underprivileged HS kids	\$5,000
Vermont Foodbank	\$5,000
VSA Vermont Art programs for the disabled	\$5,000
Ward Brook Center	\$5,000

Deborah larussi

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Hampshire College Office of Institutional Advancement	\$5,000
Houses to Homes	\$2,500
Michael J Fox Foundation	\$20,000
Pratt Institute	\$10,000
Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls	\$2,500