The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York awarded more than half a million dollars in grants in the first half of the 2014.

Through June, the Buffalo-based foundation awarded $547,440 to nonprofit efforts in support of its three focus areas: improving the quality of care for older adults and deferring the triggers of decline; improving health care for young children living in poverty; and growing community health capacity.

In the area of serving vulnerable seniors, grants included $156,000 to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center to support a project manager for its get well/stay well project. Two grants for $20,000 and $25,000, respectively, went to organizations in Washington, D.C., Grantmakers in Health and the National Academy of Sciences, support national efforts.

Three grants were awarded in the area of young children, including $157,000 to Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo to design a sustainable business model for its Priscilla Project, which serves low-income, pregnant refugee women. Other grants included $50,000 to Mercy Hospital Foundation to adopt family-centered maternity care principles and build a midwifery practice; and $85,000 to Harder + Company in San Francisco to build upon the work of the CHOMPERS! Cavity Free Kids program.

Four grants were awarded to support community health initiatives: $13,000 to The Chautauqua Center in Dunkirk; $7,750 to the P2 Collaborative of Western New York; $26,800 to HealtheConnections in Syracuse to integrate the Health Advancement Collaborative of CNY and the CNY Health Services Agency; and $6,890 to the Research Foundation for SUNY and SUNY Buffalo State to develop a web portal for safety net data.