



2026 IWC Grant Finalists

Open Airways



Founded in 1997, Open Airways is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of over 8,000 people in Bermuda whose lives are affected by asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). One in 6 children, and one in 10 adults have asthma. According to the organization, asthma is one of the top reasons why people visit the ER in Bermuda, with an average of more than four patients per day for asthma.

Open Airways provides comprehensive education about respiratory illnesses to healthcare professionals, to patients and families, in schools, and to the broader community, especially through annual events associated with World Asthma Day in May. The organization provides free spirometry testing, visits homes for personalized consultations, supports low- or no-cost medications through their Medication Assistance Program, and offers free equipment and replacement pillows since breathing problems can be exacerbated by the sleeping environment. Open Airways claims that since the inception of their asthma program, hospital admissions have decreased by 83%.

A grant of \$7,500 is being proposed for general operating support.



SkillCraft



SKILLCRAFT
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SkillCraft is a newer, and much-needed professional development and jobs training organization started in 2022. It aims to provide young people in Bermuda with access to career readiness experiences. SkillCraft supports young adults ages 18-24 who, for various reasons, may face educational and socio-economic challenges; have limited work experience or professional networks; and have not succeeded in finding ongoing employment.

SkillCraft launched its first internship program focused on marketing and social media in professional organizations. The organization is now starting up its second program called the Trades Internship Program in partnership with Urban Construction Services. Five interns will be selected for this 13-week “earn and learn” program where they spend two days per week completing training modules such as Basic Safety, Power Tools, and Construction Math. The remaining three days, interns work for a host construction business, gaining on-site experience and strengthening essential workplace habits including clear oral communication, reliability, teamwork, and taking initiative. Upon successful completion of the program, interns earn the industry-recognized NCCER Basic Construction Skills Certificate.

A grant of \$7,500 is being proposed to support the launch of the Trades Internship Program, including marketing, intern training, stipends, and program coordination.