



Community Center Investment Program | **CASE STUDY**



Tamworth Community Nurse Association - Tamworth, New Hampshire

A Unique Model of Free Nursing

The Tamworth Community Nurse Association (TCNA) has been a cornerstone of accessible rural healthcare in Tamworth since 1921. Founded as a nonprofit, TCNA's mission is to promote the physical, mental, and social well-being of all residents of Tamworth. The organization seeks to maintain a healthy, vibrant community by providing free-of-charge skilled nursing and helping residents navigate access to other available services and resources. Additionally, TCNA serves as a vital community hub for educational programs and activities beyond healthcare.

Each year, TCNA facilitates about 3,000 encounters through phone consultations, home visits, and office visits. The new facility replaces an outdated, undersized space that limited TCNA's ability to address the community's growing needs.



Expanding Programs and Services in a New Building

The Tamworth Community Nurse Association (TCNA) was the first of 27 CDFA-funded projects to complete construction under the Community Center Investment Program. The new 2,600-square-foot building, three times the size of the original space, marks a significant leap forward for the organization. With state-of-the-art amenities, ADA-compliant features, and energy-efficient solar panels, the new center transformed TCNA's services and programs available for Tamworth's 2,900 residents.

"The community was thrilled with the new space," shared June Aprille, an Ex-Officio Board Member who oversaw TCNA's construction project.



"At our grand opening, people were amazed at how modern and welcoming the facility is. It's heartwarming to see the community come together around this resource."

The enhanced facility features a new conference room to host educational workshops, CPR classes, and health seminars. The new building also boasts a waiting room, supply rooms, and offices for the nurses, as well as upgraded exam rooms and a fully equipped laboratory, enabling more efficient blood testing and vaccination services.

To ensure the new facility met the town's needs, TCNA conducted a town-wide survey, hosted community meetings, and presented its plans to the select board for feedback. This collaborative approach provided valuable input and ensured that the final design, plan, and purpose aligned with TCNA's mission.

A Central Hub for Community Access

Strategically located next to the town offices, TCNA's building serves as a one-stop shop for Tamworth residents. With newly paved parking and accessible entrances, the facility is easier to navigate, particularly for senior citizens and those with mobility challenges.

"It's not just a healthcare center; it's part of a larger community complex," Aprille said. "People can visit the nurse, pay taxes, and even stop by the library or downtown shops — all within walking distance."

The expanded space will also allow TCNA to make its Meals on Wheels program reach even more individuals, particularly those marginalized by rural isolation, aging, poverty, disabilities, or lack of family support. Additionally, the new facility also functions as a broader community resource. The new conference room, for instance, has become a hub for local groups and committees, expanding the building's impact beyond healthcare to support community building and collaboration.

Partnership with CDFA

The project was made possible in part by a one million-dollar grant from the CDFA's Community Center Investment Program. In addition to CDFA funding, TCNA's capital campaign raised additional grant awards and significant private donations, underscoring the community's deep investment in its local healthcare resources and support of the project.

Aprille praised CDFA's hands-on approach and 'can-do' attitude throughout development and construction. "They were incredibly responsive and supportive, and never put up roadblocks or said no. Because we were the first project out of the gate, we were working together to make things happen right and efficiently."

For example, getting authorization to pre-purchase some of the construction materials was essential to ensure the project remained on schedule.



"Having this grant in hand to fund those pre-buys was tremendous. We were able to save a lot of money by buying before prices went up and having it stored so we weren't being delayed by supply chain issues," recalled Aprille.

The successful completion of the Tamworth Community Nurse Association's expanded facility is a milestone in the organization's mission to enhance healthcare accessibility and strengthen the well-being of the Tamworth community for years to come. With demonstrated success, TCNA hopes that its Free Skilled Nursing model can be replicated in neighboring communities.

Key Learnings:

Early strategic planning can position projects as models for success.

Strong community involvement drives project alignment and a sense of ownership.

Centralized facilities streamline service delivery and promote community collaboration.