



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Greg Turner, Ball Consulting Group, LLC

Phone: 617-243-9950; Email: greg@ballcg.com

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Awards \$1.5 Million in Grants to Improve Access to Health Care

BOSTON (Oct. 10, 2019) – The [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation](#) has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in grants to 28 community organizations to support initiatives for promoting accessible health care and coverage for vulnerable and low-income residents across the Commonwealth.

The new round of grants focuses on two key program areas, *Connecting Consumers with Care* and *Strengthening the Voice for Access*. The Foundation also supported several organizations through its *Special Initiatives* grant-making program that provides one-time grants to innovative pilot and demonstration projects.

Connecting Consumers with Care grants provide support for up to two years to Massachusetts community-based organizations and health centers to assist eligible consumers with securing, maintaining and navigating health insurance coverage. *Strengthening the Voice for Access* grants provide up to two years of core operating support to statewide organizations working on expanding access to health care and promoting the health care interests of low-income residents. All three *Special Initiatives* grantees will focus on behavioral health.

“We targeted many of the grants toward communities with persistently high rates of uninsurance, to support strategies related to connecting with hard-to-reach groups,” said Audrey Shelto, president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. “Other grants focused on community engagement, strong partnerships among advocacy organizations, and policy advocacy initiatives on a number of key fronts, including affordability, the public charge rule, delivery system reform, and behavioral health.”



The following is a complete list of Foundation grantees:

Connecting Consumers with Care grantees

Organization	Location	Amount
Boston Health Care for the Homeless	Boston	\$40,000
Boston Public Health Commission	Boston	\$45,000
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center	Brockton	\$45,000
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee	Cambridge	\$45,000
Caring Health Center	Springfield	\$45,000
Community Action Committee of Cape Cod and Islands	Hyannis	\$45,000
The Dimock Center	Roxbury	\$45,000
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center	East Boston	\$45,000
Ecu-Health Care	North Adams	\$45,000
Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center	Worcester	\$45,000
Family Health Center of Worcester	Worcester	\$45,000
Greater New Bedford Health Center	New Bedford	\$45,000
Joint Committee for Children's Health Care in Everett	Everett	\$45,000
Lowell Community Health Center	Lowell	\$45,000
Funding total		\$625,000

Strengthening the Voice for Advocacy grantees

Organization	Location	Amount
Boston Center for Independent Living	Boston	\$60,000
Disability Policy Consortium	Malden	\$60,000
Health Care For All	Boston	\$75,000
Health Law Advocates	Boston	\$65,000
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health	Boston	\$75,000
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition	Boston	\$65,000
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute	Boston	\$75,000
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers	Boston	\$60,000
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery	Boston	\$60,000
Massachusetts Public Health Association	Boston	\$60,000
Massachusetts Senior Action Council	Quincy	\$60,000
Funding total		\$715,000



Special Initiatives grantees

Organization	Location	Amount
Community Catalyst	Boston	\$50,000
The Family Van	Boston	\$50,000
Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services	Danvers	\$50,000
Funding total		\$150,000

About the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

The mission of the [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation](#) is to expand access to health care for low-income and vulnerable individuals and families in the Commonwealth. The Foundation was established in 2001 with an initial endowment from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It operates separately from the company and is governed by its own Board of Directors.

###