



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Awards Over \$3 Million in Grants to Support Health Care System Innovations, Access**

**BOSTON (Jan. 21, 2021)** – The [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation](#) awarded more than \$3 million in grants to 64 community-based programs and projects that promote sustainable improvements in health care access for low-income and uninsured residents of Massachusetts. Over the past two decades, the Foundation has granted more than \$73 million in total.

The grants were awarded in the second half of 2020 for initiatives continuing into 2021. They include the Foundation’s four key grant-making program areas:

- *Connecting Consumers with Care*, which supports community-based organizations that assist eligible consumers with securing, maintaining, and navigating health insurance coverage.
- *Expanding Access to Behavioral Health Urgent Care*, which builds upon the state’s existing Emergency Services Program (ESP) system and expands the recipient organizations’ ability to provide community-based behavioral health urgent care.
- *Going Beyond Health Care: Addressing Social Determinants Through a Cross-Sector Approach*, which supports the coordination of services by interdisciplinary teams to address clinical and non-clinical needs of low-income and vulnerable populations.
- *Strengthening the Voice for Access*, which supports statewide organizations working on expanding access to health care and promoting the health care interests of low-income residents.

“With this round of grant-making, we remain steadfast in our multi-year commitments to expanding access to behavioral health urgent care, investing in new models to address the social determinants of health, strengthening statewide advocacy for health access, and supporting local efforts to obtain coverage for Massachusetts residents,” said Audrey Shelto, president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. “At the same time, we are pleased to have distributed funds to community-based organizations responding to the pandemic in communities that have been inequitably impacted.”



The Foundation’s *Special Initiatives* program continued to provide one-time grants to nonprofits and projects that predominantly serve people of color, including some with a special focus on responding to community needs caused by COVID-19.

The following is a complete list of Foundation grantees:

***Connecting Consumers with Care***

Organization	Location	Amount
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program	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 Community 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
<b>Funding total</b>		<b>\$625,000</b>

***Expanding Access to Behavioral Health Urgent Care***

Organization	Location	Amount
Bay Cove Human Services	Cape Cod	\$200,000
Boston Medical Center	Boston	\$200,000
The Brien Center	Pittsfield	\$200,000
Clinical & Support Options	Northampton	\$200,000
Community Healthlink	Worcester	\$200,000
Lahey Health Behavioral Services	Lowell	\$200,000
<b>Funding total</b>		<b>\$1,200,000</b>



## *Going Beyond Health Care*

Organization	Location	Amount
Metro Housing   Boston	Boston	\$75,000
The Community Builders	Worcester	\$75,000
<b>Funding total</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>

## *Strengthening the Voice for Access*

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
<b>Funding total</b>		<b>\$715,000</b>

## *Special Initiatives*

Organization	Location	Amount
Casa Esperanza	Boston	\$25,000
Essex County Community Organization	Lynn	\$12,500
Family Health Center of Worcester	Worcester	\$13,570
Family Services of the Merrimack Valley	Lawrence	\$25,000
GreenRoots	Chelsea	\$12,500
Health Imperatives	Brockton	\$12,500
Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA)	Boston	\$25,000
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers	Boston	\$20,000
Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC)	Boston	\$25,000



Public Health Institute of Western MA	Springfield	\$12,500
Regional Environmental Council	Worcester	\$15,096
Rian Immigrant Center	Boston	\$25,000
Roca	Chelsea	\$25,000
Trinity Boston Connects	Boston	\$25,000
Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires	Great Barrington	\$12,500
YMCA of Metro North	Peabody	\$25,000
YWCA Central Massachusetts	Worcester	\$12,500
<b>Funding total</b>		<b>\$323,666</b>

In addition, the [Catalyst Fund](#), a grant program funded by employees of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and administered by the Foundation, awarded \$78,740 in grants to 17 organizations across Massachusetts addressing COVID-19 in their communities. The grants will help provide basic needs to the vulnerable populations the grantees serve, including individuals experiencing homelessness, older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income and immigrant families, and youth with behavioral health conditions.

### **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.

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