



2020 - 2023 Strategic Focus Areas

MISSION

The mission of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is to expand access to health care for low-income and vulnerable people in the Commonwealth. We collaborate with public and private organizations to broaden health coverage and reduce barriers to care through grants, research, and policy initiatives. Founded in 2001 with an initial endowment from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Foundation operates separately from the company and is governed by its own Board of Directors.

FOCUS AREAS

COVERAGE AND CARE

Coverage does not always equal care. We remain committed to supporting programs that help low-income consumers obtain, keep and use their insurance, and to conducting research and developing strategies to increase coverage and access to comprehensive physical and behavioral health services, as well as to social services critical to health, for those most in need.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Access to behavioral health is particularly challenging and consumers often have difficulty getting the right combination of care when they need it. We continue to explore methods for expanding access, eliminating barriers to integrating behavioral and physical health care, and promote a more expanded workforce reflective of our communities.

STRUCTURAL RACISM AND RACIAL INEQUITIES IN HEALTH

Lack of access to quality, affordable health care is created and compounded by structural racism and prevents people from achieving positive health outcomes. Our emerging grant program and policy analysis agenda aim to understand and disrupt structural racism to eliminate inequities in health care access, quality, and outcomes.

PROGRAMS



INTENDED IMPACT

GRANTMAKING

We invest through strategic grant-making and knowledge sharing. We fund programs and projects that promote sustainable improvements in health care access for those who are economically, socially, ethnically, and racially marginalized. We also identify trends to inform our policy work and bring to scale best practices and lessons learned.

POLICY & RESEARCH

We dedicate ourselves to impartial and informative policy analysis. Working with nationally recognized researchers and academics, we focus on projects that promote the development of effective policy solutions on local and national health care issues. Our publications are widely regarded as key resources for policymakers and stakeholders.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

We educate. The Massachusetts Institute for Community Health Leadership develops emerging health care leaders with a focus on structural inequality that leads to racial health inequities. The Health Coverage Fellowship expands the capacity of the media to cover health care issues. The Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute, a program of the Foundation, broadens the understanding of the MA Medicaid program, MassHealth.

CONVENINGS

We engage the community through collaborations and convenings. Foundation-sponsored conferences assemble stakeholders from government, advocacy, academia and the provider community to discuss health care issues. Our grantees participate in learning communities with their peers to share best practices and address common challenges.

RESOURCES

GRANTMAKING & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- Catalyst Fund
- Connecting Consumers with Care
- Expanding Access to Behavioral Health Urgent Care

- Structural Racism and Racial Inequities in Health
- Special Initiatives
- Strengthening the Voice for Access

POLICY & RESEARCH

- Chart Packs
- Fact Sheets
- Infographics
- Policy Briefs
- Webinars

CONVENINGS & COLLABORATIONS

- Action Labs
- Advisory Groups
- Events & Forums
- Public-Private Partnerships