



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$1,967,500 IN GRANTS TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH INTERESTS OF UNINSURED AND LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON – January 13, 2011 - The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation has awarded \$1,967,500 in grants to 50 community organizations in Massachusetts whose missions include promoting the health care needs of uninsured and low-income residents. The grants, which range from \$20,000 to \$75,000, will be used to fund a range of activities that promote access to coverage and care.

“Since 2001, our grantees have helped thousands of people gain access to health care,” said Sarah Iselin, President of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. “These organizations continue to serve vulnerable populations across Massachusetts, and they have played a key role in achieving the lowest rate of uninsurance in the nation.”

The grants were made in three grant program areas that were established by the Foundation in 2001, including *Connecting Consumers with Care*, *Strengthening the Voice for Access*, and *the Innovation Fund for the Uninsured*.

Connecting Consumers with Care supports community-based organizations, community health centers, and select hospital-based programs that help low-income consumers enroll in MassHealth, Commonwealth Care, the Health Safety Net, and other public and private health access programs, and connect with providers.

Strengthening the Voice for Access provides core operating support to organizations that promote community-based policy activities, increase citizen participation in public policy development, and promote collaboration among statewide policy and advocacy organizations on health access issues for uninsured and low-income people.

The Innovation Fund for the Uninsured supports organizations that improve the organization, continuity, and completeness of care for the uninsured. This program area typically offers a three-year grant commitment, and the 2010 grantees include one new two-year grant and 13 grants continuing into their second or third year.

For a complete listing of grantees with a brief description of their work, please visit www.bluecrossfoundation.org.

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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. It focuses on collaborating with public and private stakeholders to develop measurable and sustainable solutions that benefit uninsured, vulnerable, and low-income individuals and families in the Commonwealth. The Foundation was formed in 2001 with an endowment from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It operates separately from the company and is governed by its own Board of Directors.