



FOUNDATION MASSACHUSETTS

BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2010 AWARDS ***Strengthening the Voice for Access – Grant Summaries***

The *Strengthening the Voice for Access* grant area provides core operating support to statewide organizations whose mission and activities significantly include a focus on promoting the health care interests of uninsured and low-income residents of the Commonwealth. These organizations demonstrate strong models to strengthen community-based policy activities, increase citizen participation in public policy development, and promote collaboration among statewide policy and advocacy organizations on health access issues. The grants can range from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and this year they total \$575,000.

Disability Policy Consortium

Boston

\$30,000

The mission of Disability Policy Consortium is to promote inclusion, independence, and empowerment of persons with disabilities through community organizing and advocacy. In 2011, the organization will continue its policy advocacy efforts with specific activities targeting the defense of Medicaid, the promotion of health equity for persons with disabilities, increased data collection on the presence of disability, and on opportunities created by the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

Boston

\$50,000

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization serves the membership of 55 religious congregations and community organizations, representing approximately 50,000 people, including many who are under- and uninsured. In 2011, the organization's health care advocacy will focus on cost containment. The goals of this effort will be to slow the growth of health care costs and to engage consumer participation and engagement in all levels of the cost and quality debate.

Health Care For All

Boston

\$50,000

The mission of Health Care For All is to build a movement of empowered people and organizations to create a health care system that is responsive to the needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable. In 2011, the organization will continue its advocacy in pursuit of four key objectives: ensuring maximum enrollment in existing coverage programs, increasing access and affordability, advancing fundamental reform of the health care payment system, and ensuring federal reform implementation strengthens the Massachusetts health reform model.

Health Law Advocates

Boston

\$40,000

Health Law Advocates is a public interest law firm whose mission is to provide legal representation to low-income residents experiencing difficulty accessing or paying for needed medical services. In 2011, the organization's efforts will include activities targeting health care reform and payment reform, addressing medical debt, increasing children's mental health access, access to dental health and expanding and maintaining its *pro bono* Legal Network.

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

Boston

\$40,000

The mission of the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers is to strengthen the professional identity of community health workers (CHWs), foster leadership among CHWs, and promote the integration of CHWs into the healthcare, public health, and human services workforce. In 2011, the organization will focus on the successful implementation of the recently enacted CHW certification bill, increasing its membership and the leadership capacity of its members, and working in partnership with other advocacy organizations on the issues of health care access and payment reform.

Massachusetts Association of School-Based Health Care

(Formerly the Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers)

Boston

\$25,000

The Massachusetts Association of School-Based Health Care is a statewide organization dedicated to promoting the health and academic success of children and youth by increasing access to school-based health care and support services. In 2011, the organization will continue to promote school-based access to health care by fostering collaboration between health care providers, educators, and the public schools. In addition, the organization will provide technical assistance to schools and their sponsor organizations seeking to expand or start new school-based health centers.

Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

Boston

\$30,000

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance is a coalition of 90 statewide organizations serving homeless individuals, including homeless shelters and homeless service providers, who are direct participants in their advocacy efforts. In 2011, the organization will continue to conduct policy research, advocacy and the creation of housing opportunities that include health care access for chronically homeless adults.

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Boston

\$50,000

The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition is a statewide membership organization that advocates for the rights and opportunities of immigrants and refugees across the Commonwealth. They support a network of district-based activists to be an effective grassroots voice for immigrant access to health care. In 2011, the organization will continue to restructure its organizing framework with a stronger focus on field organizing, build leadership capacity in the community through its Democracy School, and continue to advocate for greater access within Commonwealth Care and through the implementation of national health reform in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Boston

\$50,000

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to promote economic, racial and social justice for low-income people through legal action, education and advocacy. In 2011, the organization will continue to advocate in defense of health access programs and will also seek opportunities to improve coverage. A particular focus will include low-income and vulnerable populations, including advocacy on behalf of immigrants who are facing increased barriers to access.

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Boston

\$45,000

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers is a statewide association representing and serving the needs of the state's 52 community health centers through advocacy and technical assistance so they can achieve their goals of promoting accessible, quality, community responsive health care. In 2011, the organization will continue to advocate for a strong safety net, including support through health reform both at the state and federal level. In addition, the organization will continue to serve as a key resource to its membership as cost containment and payment reform continue to reshape the health care environment.

Massachusetts Senior Action Council

Boston

\$40,000

Massachusetts Senior Action Council is a statewide, democratically run, membership organization that is committed to empowering seniors and others to act collectively to promote the rights and well-being of all people, particularly vulnerable seniors. In 2011, the organization will enable the voice of seniors so they can continue to advocate for home and community based services, and increased access under Medicaid, Medicare and other programs like Prescription Advantage. The organization will also increase awareness among seniors of the benefits of the federal health reform law.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Boston, Worcester, Salem, Lynn, Leominster, Fitchburg, Holyoke, and Springfield

\$35,000

Neighbor to Neighbor is a progressive organization of working class, multi-racial, and multi-ethnic people working together to build political and economic power to improve the quality of lives in their community. In 2011, the organization will ensure the voice of low income populations will be present in discussions about national health reform, including the preservation of federal funding, and will advocate for the restoration of MassHealth benefits and full coverage for legal immigrants.

Prisoners' Legal Services

(Formerly Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services)

Boston

\$35,000

Prisoners' Legal Services is a private nonprofit organization that provides civil legal assistance to prisoners in Massachusetts' state and county correctional facilities. In 2011, the organization will continue to perform its role of assisting prisoners in accessing health care during incarceration. These activities will include providing advice, information and advocacy with corrections officials on behalf of ill prisoners.

The Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation

Boston

\$25,000

The Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation promotes reproductive freedom in the Commonwealth through public education, policy initiatives, research and training programs. In 2011, the organization will continue to serve as a leading voice for full access to reproductive health services for diverse communities, and will also focus on new challenges to access in the wake of federal health care reform.

Voice and Future Fund

Boston

\$30,000

The mission of Voice and Future Fund is to expand the voice of union members and other workers in the property services industry, their families and communities through education, capacity building, and community, civic, and business partnerships. In 2011, the organization will continue to educate the members of SEIU 615 about health care access and coverage, bring the voice of low-income workers to advocacy efforts in Massachusetts, and work to ensure employer sponsored health coverage for an increasing number of low-wage positions.