



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2007

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**BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION  
COMMITTS \$2.3 MILLION IN GRANTS**

BOSTON — January 9, 2007—The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation (BCBSMAF) announced grants totaling \$2.3 million to improve access to health care for uninsured and low-income residents. Fifty-eight organizations across the Commonwealth – including 27 organizations based in or serving Boston – received funding to improve organization and continuity of care for the uninsured; help low-income consumers enroll in publicly-funded health insurance programs; and strengthen community-based advocacy activities.

“These grants are among the Foundation’s most significant means of helping to promote access to care for low-income and uninsured Massachusetts residents,” said Foundation Director Phillip Gonzalez. “We are pleased to support these key organizations across the state that work hard to address barriers to care. As the state moves forward in implementing last year’s health care reform law, efforts must be made in the meantime to continue to improve access for low-income and currently uninsured residents.”

The Foundation’s total grantmaking in Massachusetts during this period will support:

- 21 health care delivery organizations, with up to three-year commitments, totaling \$1.2 million to support models for developing, expanding, or sustaining coordinated care for the uninsured;
- 23 community-based and health care delivery organizations, with one-year grants, totaling \$480,000 to support efforts to enroll low-income persons for public and private health insurance programs, navigate the health care system, and connect them with health care providers;
- 14 advocacy organizations, with one-year grants, totaling \$610,000 to support statewide advocacy initiatives that promote the health care interests of the uninsured and low-income residents.

Examples of organizations that were awarded grants from the Foundation include:

- Boston Health Care for the Homeless was awarded \$75,000 in renewed funding to ensure that Boston’s homeless men and women have access to complete and comprehensive health care at the Long Island and Woods Mullen shelters. Funding will enable sustainability of patient services that are not reimbursable, but are important and

routinely provided by nursing staff, as well as to maintain the range of health care services currently provided.

- Fenway Community Health Center received \$20,000 in renewed funding to support financial assistance and client services staff that provide outreach, enrollment, and post-enrollment services for low-income patients, most of whom are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or transgender individuals. Funding will also support targeted improvements to technology, staff language abilities, and post-enrollment support services based on client needs and program evaluation.

- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition received \$50,000 in renewed funding to support their work in the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Campaign for Long-Term Equality (MIRACLE) campaign that seeks to promote access to health care, ameliorate health outcome disparities, and improve the quality of care for Massachusetts immigrants. MIRACLE will monitor the implementation of health care reform and its effect on immigrant communities. Program collaborators include SEIU Local 615, Public Policy Institute, Health Care for All, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Latino Health Institute, and member organizations across Massachusetts.

- Massachusetts Senior Action Council was awarded \$45,000 in renewed funding to promote the rights and well-being of vulnerable seniors, especially the 500,000 low-income elderly. They will work to protect, reform, and increase senior enrollment in Medicare and Prescription Advantage.

Since its inception in 2001, the BCBSMAF ([www.bcbsmafoundation.org](http://www.bcbsmafoundation.org)) has committed grants totaling \$21 million to 224 organizations, and developed numerous policy initiatives to expand access to health care for the uninsured and low-income individuals and families in Massachusetts. The Foundation is governed by its own 19-member Board of Directors and operates separately from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) corporation. BCBSMA contributed an initial endowment of \$55 million in 2001. The endowment is now more than \$90 million, making the BCBSMA Foundation one of the largest health philanthropies in the state.

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