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**BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION AWARDS
\$2.22 MILLION TO 56 HEALTH ACCESS ORGANIZATIONS**

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BOSTON — The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation has awarded \$2.22 million to 56 community health organizations around the state. Grants were given to organizations that assist residents in obtaining health care by helping them sign up for health insurance and find providers; advocate for better health care coverage; or improve the care for those who remain uninsured. Grants ranged from \$20,000 to \$75,000.

“Thousands of people today have health insurance or better access to care thanks to the work of our grantees,” said Sarah Iselin, President of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. “Despite the impressive gains made in Massachusetts, where only three percent of state residents do not have health insurance coverage, our grantees are busier than ever. Supporting them helps us fulfill our mission, which is to expand access to care to low-income and vulnerable state residents.”

The grants were made in three program areas established by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation in 2001. *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.

For a complete list of grantees, with a brief description of their work, please visit BlueCrossFoundation.org.

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More 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. Through grants and policy initiatives, the Foundation works with public and private organizations to broaden health coverage and reduce barriers to care. It focuses on developing measurable and sustainable solutions that benefit uninsured, vulnerable, and low-income individuals and families in the Commonwealth, and served as a catalyst for the pioneering Massachusetts health care reform law passed in 2006. The Foundation was founded in 2001 with

an initial endowment of \$55 million from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The Foundation operates separately from the company and is governed by its own 18-member Board of Directors. It is one of the largest private health philanthropies in New England and in 2007 was awarded the Paul Ylvisaker Award for Public Policy Engagement for its work on Massachusetts health care reform by the Council on Foundations.