

**BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2004 GRANT AWARDS**  
***Connecting Consumers with Care – Grant Summaries***

Grants in the **Connecting Consumers with Care** program area support community-based efforts to ensure that low-income consumers enrolled in state-funded health insurance programs - particularly MassHealth - receive access to the health care services to which they are entitled. These are strong models for comprehensive outreach, enrollment, system navigation, post-enrollment assistance and case management services. The grants range from \$12,000 to \$25,000.

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**Franklin Community Action Corporation (FCAC)**

Collaborators: Athol Memorial Hospital, North Quabbin Community Coalition, Community Partners

*Greenfield*

\$25,000

Continued support for the *Healthy Connections Program* to provide eligibility screening for a broad range of publicly and privately funded medical care, and individualized post-enrollment services for low-income and uninsured residents of the nine towns of the North Quabbin region.

**Lynn Community Health Center**

Collaborators: Khmer Association of the North Shore, North Shore Medical Center, Lynn Health Task Force

\$25,000

Funding of this initiative will help approximately 2,000 uninsured patients obtain access to health care coverage. Health center staff will help patients complete applications for publicly funded health insurance, provide outreach, health education, and post-enrollment service.

**Berkshire Health Systems**

Collaborators: Community Health Network of the Berkshires (CHNA), Berkshire County House of Correction (BCHC)

*Pittsfield*

\$20,000

Continued funding for the *Advocacy for Access (AFA)* program that provides post-enrollment and specialized enrollment services to the uninsured in Central and Southern Berkshire County, new MassHealth enrollees, hospital inpatient substance abuse patients, and psychiatric persons in the correctional system.

**Boston Public Health Commission**

Collaborators: Health Care for All, DMA, Boston Public Schools, Action for Boston Community Development, Boston Health Access Project, various Boston hospitals and community health centers

*Boston*

\$20,000

Continued support for the *Mayor's Health Line (MHL)* to conduct follow-up assessment of individuals and families assisted with the MassHealth application process. All clients are contacted three to six months post-enrollment to monitor: 1) continued eligibility; 2) source of primary care or medical home; 3) actual use of health care services; and 4) unmet need or difficulty receiving services.

**Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands**

Collaborators: N/A

*Hyannis*

\$20,000

Support of the HOPE project will help Cape Cod's low-income and uninsured patients obtain publicly-funded health coverage or Free Care. This initiative is focused on advocacy, outreach, health education, and community collaboration and provider coordination to help ensure access to care.

**Health and Education Services, Inc. (HES)**

Collaborators: Northeast Health Systems, Inc., Northeast Medical Practice, North Shore Community Health Center, Lawrence Family Health Center, Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Dr. Bruce W. Smith

*Greater North Shore and Merrimack Valley*

\$20,000

Ongoing support for health care access and integration of behavioral and medical services for 150 seriously and persistently mentally ill (SPMI) consumers. HES will provide post-enrollment case management and comprehensive routine primary care in the behavioral health setting by an experienced nurse practitioner.

**Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center**

Collaborators: Wayside Youth and Family Services, Waltham Partnership for Youth, Waltham Public Schools, Waltham Council on Aging

*Allston*

\$20,000

Funding for "Access to Benefits and Care", a program that offers outreach, enrollment and coverage retention for the uninsured. Support will help the health center provide outreach to 1,000 low-income and uninsured Haitians and provide application assistance to eligible individuals and families.

**Hallmark Health**

Collaborators: Healthy Malden, Inc.; Tuft's Family Practice Residency Program

*Medford, Malden, Melrose, Wakefield, Saugus, Revere, Everett, Stoneham*

\$20,000

Continued funding of an initiative to conduct follow-up and case management with individuals applying for MassHealth, with a special emphasis on Vietnamese, Arabic, and Spanish-speaking populations. Data on frequency and type of visit will be collected and compared with the baseline, and improvements will be made to internal systems to reduce barriers.

**Mercy Medical Center**

Collaborators: Mental Health Association of Greater Springfield, Vietnamese Civic Association, Friends of the Homeless, Inc.

*Springfield*

\$20,000

Ongoing support of the *Health Care for the Homeless* program to ensure that homeless and Vietnamese MassHealth members receive ongoing education, support and case management to connect them with comprehensive health services.

**Outer Cape Health Services**

Collaborators: The health centers are part of an extensive lower/outer Cape coalition that includes boards of health, local government officials, town administrations, local housing authorities, schools and community-based organizations

*Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Orleans, Brewster, Harwich & Chatham*

\$20,000

Continued support to *Healthy Connections*, an outreach, enrollment and comprehensive post-enrollment service to low-income residents of the eight towns that comprise Lower and Outer Cape Cod.

**South Middlesex Legal Services, Inc. (SMLS)**

*Framingham*

\$20,000

Ongoing support for the *Health Care Access Project*, which provides enrollment, post-enrollment, and legal advocacy services to low-income consumers in the 36-town greater MetroWest area.

**Span, Inc.**

*Greater Boston*

\$20,000

Continued funding to provide reintegrating offenders in Greater Boston with eligibility screening for health insurance, assistance with applications, and education about how to choose and follow through with a health care provider, as well as navigate the health care system.

**Vietnamese-American Civic Association, Inc.**

Collaborators: Bowdoin Street Community Health Center, Codman Square Health Center, Dorchester House, Neponset Health Center, Carney Hospital, Boston Medical Center

*Dorchester*

\$20,000

Ongoing funding to enhance the *Vietnamese Health Care Access Project* for outreach, post-enrollment and interpreter services for low-income, at-risk Vietnamese immigrants and refugees living in Boston and the Greater Boston neighborhoods of Chelsea, Malden, Quincy and Everett.

**Fenway Community Health Center**

\$15,000

Funding to expand outreach services to MassHealth patients and streamline the health center's enrollment, post-enrollment, outreach and financial assistance services for low-income patients.

**Saint Anne's Hospital**

Collaborators: local CHNA, Fall River Housing Authority

*Fall River*

\$15,000

Continued funding for the *Health Insurance Advocacy Program* that provides outreach, enrollment and post-enrollment assistance to the uninsured and underinsured of Greater Fall River. The target populations served by this project are low-income and non-English speaking residents, particularly Portuguese, Latino, and Khmer individuals and families.

**South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC)**

Collaborators: MetroWest Medical Center, local homeless shelters

*Framingham*

\$15,000

Ongoing support to provide direct care access and post-enrollment services to homeless individuals residing in homeless/residential programs, post detox and pre-recovery home programs, transitional sober housing, and the overflow shelter in the MetroWest region.

**Steppingstone, Inc.**

*Fall River*

\$15,000

Funding for staff training to enhance expertise in connecting low-income substance abuse clients with MassHealth enrollment, re-determination and documentation requirements, and post enrollment services. Staff will assist substance abuse patients with health insurance enrollment, case management, and help with connection to health care and mental health services.

**Hilltown Community Health Center, Inc. (HCHC)**

Collaborators: Community Partners, Hampshire Community Action, Hilltown Coalition for Youth and Community Needs

*Worthington*

\$12,000

Continued support of HCHC's Outreach Worker in the administration of the *Connecting Consumers with Care Program*. The Outreach Worker will help residents to understand and comply with MassHealth and MassHealth Essential program requirements, assist with completing necessary paperwork, and connect applicants with a primary care provider to make and keep medical appointments.