

**BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2004 GRANT AWARDS**  
*Innovation Fund for the Uninsured – Grant Summaries*

Grants in the **Innovation Fund for the Uninsured** program area help Massachusetts organizations coordinate care for uninsured patients. These are model programs for improving the organization, continuity and completeness of care for the uninsured. Multi-year grant commitments, contingent upon satisfactory annual reviews and site visits, range from \$100,000 to \$225,000. Select organizations in 2004 received one-year grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for planning activities or discreet initiatives.

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**Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP)**

Collaborators: Pine Street Inn, Long Island Shelter, Woods Mullen Shelter

*Boston*

\$225,000 three-year commitment; \$75,000 awarded (2004)

Funding to ensure that homeless patients have access to the range of primary care services they require at the BHCHP-operated clinic at Long Island Shelter. Focus will also be placed on building the clinical practice at the Woods Mullen Shelter in Boston. Additionally, patient utilization of services will be tracked to determine the impact services provided at the Pine Street Inn clinic site have on patients served.

**Boston Medical Center (BMC)**

*Boston*

\$225,000 three-year commitment; \$75,000 awarded (2004)

Support for specialized case management services for uninsured asylum seekers and refugees residing in Suffolk County. The project will be centered at the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights (BCRHHR), a critical point of entry into the health care safety net system for this vulnerable population. A comprehensive, labor-intensive case management model will assist these uninsured individuals in linking with coordinated medical, dental, mental health and social services.

**Cooley Dickinson Hospital & Hampshire Community Action Commission**

*Northampton*

\$210,000 three-year commitment; \$70,000 awarded (2004)

Funding for their collaboration to help local uninsured residents of Hampshire County access a complete range of available medical care and services on a reduced and sliding fee scale. The hospital has assumed responsibility for administration and expansion of the physician network, and HCAC conducts outreach. Both organizations will enroll clients with providers in the network, help them access other health care services as needed, and provide ongoing follow-up and case management to coordinate their care.

**Falmouth Free Clinic**

Collaborator: Vineyard Health Access Program

*Falmouth, Mashpee*

\$180,000 three-year commitment; \$60,000 awarded (2004)

Support for *Project Coordinate Care*. The clinic's case management team coordinates mental health counseling, referrals to medical specialists, individual and family supportive services, and medication assistance, and targets patients with chronic health conditions like asthma, cancer, depression, diabetes, hypertension, Lyme disease, hepatitis, etc. that are expensive and challenging to manage. The goal of this program is to improve the overall health of over 400 uninsured people on Cape Cod and the Islands.

**Ecu-Health Care**

*North Adams*

\$180,000 three-year commitment; \$60,000 awarded (2004)

Funding to expand Ecu-Health Care's outreach, enrollment and case management services to serve an additional 100 uninsured residents in the Northern Berkshire region. The target population served by this project is approximately 4,000 uninsured residents of North Adams and 10 surrounding towns. The organization's mission is to ensure the provision of health care, including preventive medical care and services, dental services, and reduced price prescription drugs for low-income and uninsured residents.

**Island Health Plan**

Collaborators: Rural Health Clinic, Falmouth Free Clinic

*Martha's Vineyard*

\$180,000 three-year commitment; \$60,000 awarded (2004)

Funding to implement a three-year Care Coordination program at Island Health Care, the new rural health clinic; to continue the development of the regional Specialty Network for the Uninsured; and for the Vineyard Health Care Access Program (VHCAP) to continue its efforts to improve access to health care, including oral health care, for all low-income uninsured residents of Martha's Vineyard.

**North Shore Medical Center (NSMC)**

Collaborators: Lynn Community Health Center, North Shore Community Health Center

\$180,000 three-year commitment; \$60,000 awarded (2004)

Funding to coordinate care between the medical center and community health centers for a subset of patients who require intensive case management and are at particularly high risk for excessive use of the emergency department, poor health outcomes, and unnecessary and unduly long inpatient stays. The program will identify those patients who are medically noncompliant, have substance abuse issues and chronic mental illness, who live alone or have no significant other, or are on five or more medications.

**Geiger Gibson Community Health Center (GGCHC)**

*North Dorchester (Columbia Point), South Boston*

\$150,000 three-year commitment; \$50,000 awarded (2004)

Funding to provide: 1) outreach to the uninsured using already known, trusted, community resident leaders as its ambassadors; and 2) care management and coordination, supportive services coordination, and patient tracking for the uninsured, using a Registered Nurse and a Social Worker. The project targets Columbia Point, and Mary Ellen McCormack and Old Colony Housing Developments in South Boston.

**Heywood Hospital/Gateway Health Access Program (GHAP)**

*Gardner*

\$150,000 three-year commitment; \$50,000 awarded (2004)

Support to implement a regional program of access to medical, dental, and mental health care for the approximate 42,000 uninsured and underinsured residing in the North Central Region. Beyond the financial and in-kind resources already provided, Heywood Hospital, Community Health Connections Family Health Center, and Health Alliance Hospital will each contribute \$10,000 annually to support a regionally managed GHAP structure. The project has a significant network component to connect participants to a variety of resources including MassHealth and free care, among others.

**Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS)**

*Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin Counties*

\$150,000 three-year commitment; \$50,000 awarded (2004)

Continued funding for the Mercy Access Program (MAP), a coordinated system of care that will link uninsured users of Mercy Medical Center's Emergency Department to a network of community-based clinics and specialty services within SPHS and the community. While addressing the needs of the

uninsured overall, this project focuses on highly vulnerable special needs populations, such as the homeless, substance-addicted persons, mentally ill, and immigrants and refugees.

**Morton Hospital and Medical Center (MHMC)**

*Taunton*

\$120,000 two-year commitment; \$60,000 awarded (2004)

Support for the Friedman Adult Clinic, a site for delivering primary care to uninsured adults during the evenings (3:30-7:30 p.m., three days per week), and two Saturday mornings per month. The clinic is located in Friedman Middle School. Care is delivered by nurse practitioners who operate under the supervision of a general internist from the hospital.

**Stanley Street Treatment & Resource, Inc. (SSTAR)**

*Fall River*

\$100,000 two-year commitment; \$50,000 awarded (2004)

Support for continued operation of *MediCall/Health Access Program*, which collaborates with other Fall River organizations to increase insurance enrollment and coordinated care for the uninsured, and retain the commitment of area physicians willing to provide gratis specialty care. *MediCall* serves a diverse patient base, including the Portuguese, Hispanic, Brazilian, and Cambodian communities.

**UMass Memorial Health Care Mobile**

*Worcester*

\$100,000 two-year commitment; \$50,000 awarded (2004)

Support for the Care Mobile, a 40-foot mobile medical/dental unit that provides medical and dental care, and health education in Worcester. The target population served by this project is medically underserved individuals in seven low-income Worcester neighborhoods and other sites in Worcester County. The Care Mobile's mission is to serve vulnerable individuals who are at high risk for poor health outcomes because of lack of insurance, poverty, lack of transportation, and language barriers.

**Women of Means**

Collaborators: Rosie's Place, Women's Lunch Place, Casa Myrna Vazquez, Middlesex Human Service Agency, Boston area teaching hospitals (partial list)

*Boston*

\$100,000 two-year commitment; \$50,000 awarded (2004)

Funding to improve the organization's links with the medical community to: 1) improve communication between caregivers to help close the clinical loop for patients; and 2) continue to facilitate connecting clients to further and ongoing medical care. Support will also expand care at Rosie's Place and stabilize the nursing program at Casa Myrna Vazquez, a network of family shelters for battered women.

**Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)**

*Boston*

\$50,000 one-year award (2004)

Support to ensure the safe and successful transition of uninsured hospital-based patients to new primary care providers at community health centers in light of the new Critical Access regulation promulgated by the MA Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Case management, tracking, and follow-up services will be provided at community health centers and three sites in the medical center.

**Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA)**

*Cambridge, Somerville*

\$50,000 one-year award (2004)

Funding to further expand the role of a non-clinician, the Planned Care Site Coordinator, as a health care team member responsible for care coordination for uninsured and low-income patients with chronic diseases. The project's goal is to improve patients' clinical status, satisfaction with care, and level of

confidence in managing their health conditions, and to develop and test a model of care coordination that can be expanded to other settings.

**Essex Health Group**

*Merrimack Valley*

\$25,000 one-year award (2004) – planning grant

Funding for a planning year to develop collaboration and an implementation plan to establish a free care system for Merrimack Valley residents whose household incomes are at or below 200% FPL and who are not eligible for MassHealth. The Merrimack Valley Independent Physician’s Association (MVIPA) formed Essex Health Group in 2002 and envision a coordinated intake and referral system, membership cards, a patient-centered appointment system, and case management assistance for the uninsured.

**Lowell Community Health Center**

Collaborators: Lowell General Hospital, Saints Memorial Medical Center, VNA of Greater Lowell, African Assistance Center

*Greater Lowell*

\$25,000 one-year award (2004) – planning grant

Funding for LCHC to partner with the city’s two hospitals and community-based organizations to improve access to primary and specialty care for uninsured residents of Greater Lowell. The “Lowell Access to Care” program calls for the development of a strategic plan to increase the availability of specialty care for the uninsured, community outreach, and the development of a cross-site referral system.