

BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2005 AWARDS
Innovation Fund for the Uninsured – Grant Summaries

The *Innovation Fund for the Uninsured* program helps Massachusetts health care delivery organizations improve the organization, continuity, and completeness of care for the uninsured. The program's ultimate goal is to improve health outcomes and cost effectiveness through prevention and medical management. Multi-year grant commitments ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000 are awarded contingent upon satisfactory annual reviews and site visits. The 2005 grant cycle awarded a total of \$1,225,000 in this program area.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Collaborators: N/A

Boston

\$75,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued 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.

Boston Medical Center

Collaborators: Boston University schools of Law, Public Health, Medicine and Dentistry, BMC community health centers

Boston

\$75,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding to link uninsured asylees, refugees, and survivors of torture to coordinated medical, dental, mental health, and social services. Funding will support case management to assist this vulnerable population enter the complex health care system.

Cambridge Health Alliance

Collaborators: International Institute of Boston, Institute for Community Health

Cambridge

\$75,000 awarded each of 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007)

Funding to support a comprehensive and coordinated model of care for political violence survivors, including torture survivors, refugees, and trafficking victims. A multidisciplinary group of providers, trained in the specific health care needs of this population, will provide a regular and continued source of medical and mental health care.

Cape Cod Free Clinic

Collaborators: N/A

Falmouth

\$60,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding to improve the overall health of uninsured people suffering from chronic health conditions, such as asthma, cancer, depression, diabetes, hypertension, Lyme disease, and hepatitis. The program utilizes a case management team to coordinate medical specialist referrals, mental health counseling services, individual and family support services, and client prescription assistance.

Community Health Center of Franklin County

Collaborators: N/A

Turner Falls

\$60,000 awarded each of 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007)

Funding to create continuous comprehensive care for homeless persons, or those at risk of becoming homeless, to successfully manage health conditions that interfere with the ability to maintain stable employment and housing. The program will deliver services via a dedicated interdisciplinary team with special focus on establishing or strengthening a relationship to primary care and providing case management to manage chronic illnesses and address behavioral health needs.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital

Collaborators: Hampshire Community Action Commission

Hampshire County

\$70,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding supports expansion of a local network of primary care providers and specialists who offer services to the uninsured for reduced, sliding-scale rates. The program provides intensive case management that also links the uninsured to other needed health care services, such as prescription assistance, hospital care, and mental health care.

Ecu-Health Care

Collaborators: Northern Berkshire Health Systems, Community Action of North Berkshire, REACH Community Health Foundation, North Adams Public Schools, Northern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce

North Adams

\$60,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding to administer and expand a voluntary primary care and specialist physician program and sustain the care coordination and case management component that helps residents enroll in health coverage programs and access free or reduced cost prescription drugs. Additionally, funding will enable a program component that helps individuals with chronic conditions avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.

Geiger Gibson Community Health Center

Collaborators: N/A

North Dorchester, South Boston

\$50,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding supports expanded outreach and case management services for the uninsured living in neighboring public housing developments. The program uses well-known and trusted community leaders to get the uninsured into the health center. Once at the health center, a registered nurse and social worker will provide care management, support services coordination, and patient tracking.

Great Brook Valley Health Center

Collaborators: African Community Development Corporation

Worcester

\$60,000 awarded each of 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007)

Funding to support a Patient Advocate/ Case Manager who will conduct outreach to bring uninsured African immigrant men into the health center for primary health care services, culturally competent case management, and education.

Heywood Hospital/ Gateway Health Access Program

Collaborators: N/A

Gardner

\$50,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued support for a regional program of coordinated and comprehensive access to medical, dental, and mental health care for uninsured residents in the North Central area, through a network of providers who offer services at sliding scale rates.

Island Health, Inc.

Collaborators: N/A

Martha's Vineyard

\$60,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued support to coordinate and improve health care services for the uninsured and low-income people of Martha's Vineyard, including financial assistance coordination, recruitment of physicians to the Specialty Network for the Uninsured, and creation of the Oral Health Working Group, which makes educational presentations in schools and operates a reduced-fee dental care program.

Lowell Community Health Center

Collaborators: Lowell General Hospital, Saints Memorial Medical Center, Visiting Nurses Association of Greater Lowell, Lowell City Health Department

Lowell

\$65,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Following a year of planning grant funding, this award will support two years of implementation of a program to improve the integration of care for uninsured Greater Lowell residents by increasing access to specialty care and integration with primary care, reducing cultural barriers, promoting enrollment in public insurance programs or offering sliding-fee-scale payment, and promoting preventive health care.

Morton Hospital and Medical Center

Collaborators: Taunton Public Schools

Taunton

\$75,000 awarded for 1 year (2005)

Continued funding to sustain a school-based health center for uninsured adults, increasing access to regular primary and preventive health care in an alternative setting with flexible hours (3 evenings per week and 2 Saturdays per month).

Neponset Health Center

Collaborators: Health Care for All, Vietnamese-American Civic Association, Vietnamese American Initiative for Development, Bay Colony Associates, the Boston Home, Insurance Partnership, Job Net

South Dorchester, North Quincy

\$60,000 awarded each of 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007)

Funding to improve the health status of uninsured Vietnamese adults through more intensive and targeted outreach services to emphasize preventive services, bring patients into the health center earlier in the course of their illness, improve patient tracking, and provide medical and social service case management.

North Shore Medical Center

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

Salem and Lynn

\$60,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding to coordinate care for high-risk patients prone to excessive use of the emergency department, unnecessary inpatient stays, and poor health outcomes. The program features a community-based case manager for patients who typically are medically non-compliant, have substance issues and/or chronic mental illness, are socially isolated, and those who are on five or more medications.

Sisters of Providence Health System – Mercy Medical Center

Collaborators: Springfield Department of Health and Human Services, Springfield Southwest Community Health Center

Springfield

\$50,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding supports a program that connects uninsured homeless, substance-addicted, and immigrant and refugee patients using the emergency department for primary care to a network of community-based clinics and specialty services within the health system. The ED staff can identify patient needs, including screening for insurance eligibility, assistance with navigating the health system, and referrals to appropriate primary care services.

Stanley Street Treatment and Resource, Inc.

Collaborators: N/A

Fall River

\$50,000 awarded for 1 year (2005)

Continued funding to increase coordinated care for uninsured residents, particularly those affected by addiction, and retain the commitment of area physicians willing to provide free specialty care at reduced rates. Funding enables the *MediCall* program to engage area physicians into volunteer arrangements, coordinate primary and specialty health care visits, and provide access to prescription medications, through a voucher system, sample medication distribution, and/ or prescription assistance programs.

UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc.

Collaborators: N/A

Worcester

\$50,000 awarded for 1 year (2005)

Continued funding to support the *Care Mobile* - a 40-foot vehicle that travels 4-5 days per week - providing access to medical and dental care and health education on-site in seven low-income Worcester neighborhoods. The *Care Mobile* engages community members who would not ordinarily access health care by providing them with immediate

access to primary care and dental services, screening clients for eligibility in public insurance programs, and promoting client access to community-based primary care providers, specialist physicians, and dentists.

Whittier Street Health Center

Collaborators: Prostate Health Education Network, Roxbury Community Alliance for Health, Latin American Health Institute

Roxbury

\$70,000 awarded each of 2 years (2005, 2006)

Continued funding to implement a program piloted in 2004 that integrates and coordinates care and improves health access for uninsured men of color. It focuses on three health concerns to address daunting health disparities and high mortality rates experienced by this population: behavioral health/ substance abuse, cancer, and diabetes.

Women of Means, Inc.

Collaborators: N/A

Wellesley

\$50,000 awarded for 1 year (2005)

Continued funding for a program that engages homeless women and empowers them to access appropriate, ongoing health care. Funding enables an expansion of hours and staff that provides free clinical services at a homeless shelter and an increased nursing presence at a network of family shelters for uninsured battered women and their children.

