

BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2006 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 improved health outcomes and more cost-effective care through outreach and education, prevention, and medical management. Sixteen organizations will receive continued funding for multi-year grants committed in preceding years that ranges from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Five new organizations will receive planning grants of \$35,000 to respond to the needs of those who remain uninsured despite the health reforms enacted in Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006. Planning grant recipients will subsequently be eligible to apply for up to two years of implementation support. The 2006 grant cycle awards a total of \$1,175,000 in this program area.

Brightwood Health Center

Collaborators: Caring Health Center

Greater Springfield

\$35,000 awarded for 2006

Funding to identify where seasonal farm workers live and better understand their demographics, culture, and health needs. Information will be used to create a case management model that is complemented by peer educators within the farm worker community and health aids based at local farms.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Boston

\$75,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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, and BMC community health centers

Boston

\$75,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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 and Institute for Community Health

Cambridge

\$75,000 awarded for each 2006 and 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

Falmouth

\$60,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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

Turner Falls

\$60,000 awarded for each 2006 and 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 for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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.

Dotwell (Health Services Partnership of Dorchester)

Collaborators: Codman Square Health Center and Dorchester House Multi-Service Center

Dorchester

\$35,000 awarded for 2006

Funding to identify patients currently categorized as self-pay and bad debt or who remain uninsured under health reform and their barriers to coverage. Information will be used to develop a model of care management that engages the uninsured into regular care

Ecu-Health Care

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

North Adams

\$60,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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

North Dorchester and South Boston

\$50,000 for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

Continued funding to develop and implement a system of care that engages and addresses the needs of the uninsured populations in portions of South Boston and Dorchester.

Great Brook Valley Health Center

Collaborators: African Community Development Corporation

Worcester

\$60,000 awarded for each 2006 and 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

Gardner

\$50,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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.

Holyoke Health Center

Collaborators: Lutheran Social Services, Hampden County Correctional Facility, Behavioral Health Network, Child and Family Services, Mass Refugee and Immigrant Association, and Valley Opportunity Council

Hampden County

\$35,000 awarded for 2006

Funding to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and design a system of care for people who are likely to remain uninsured under health reform. The project partners will collaborate to establish a core working group, organize focus groups, collect data, and design pilot interventions.

Island Health, Inc.

Martha's Vineyard

\$60,000 awarded for each 2006 and 2007

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, and Lowell City Health Department

Lowell

\$65,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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.

Lynn Community Health Center

Lynn

\$35,000 awarded for 2006

Funding to identify and contact uninsured adults to educate them about health reform and understand potential barriers to coverage, with a particular focus on individuals below 300% FPL and chronic disease diagnoses. Implementation activities will likely center upon accessing care through a nurse case manager.

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, and Job Net

South Dorchester and North Quincy

\$60,000 awarded for each 2006 and 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 and North Shore Community Health Center

Salem and Lynn

\$60,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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 Healy System – Mercy Medical Center

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

Springfield

\$50,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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.

South End Community Health Center

Boston

\$35,000 awarded for 2006

Funding to identify, contact, and evaluate the patient population most at-risk for being chronically uninsured, with a special focus on those with substance abuse, mental health, or homelessness issues. Information will help develop a case management program that will provide comprehensive medical and mental care in one location.

Whittier Street Health Center

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

Roxbury

\$70,000 awarded for 2006 – final year of funding through this grant program

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.