

BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2007 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. Nine organizations with three-year grants set to expire at the end of 2007 were granted one-year extensions of funding ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000, Eight organizations were awarded funding as part of a multi-year grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$95,000. Two organizations were awarded support for a second year of planning ranging from of \$35,000 to \$45,000 to continue their efforts to develop program models in response 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 2007 grant cycle awards a total of \$1,200,000 in this program area.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Collaborators: Boston's Homeless Services Bureau – Long Island Shelter and Woods Mullen Shelter

Boston

\$65,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding ensures 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

Boston

\$75,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports a program serving uninsured asylees, refugees, and survivors of torture with 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 2007 – final year of funding from a three-year grant

Continued funding supports a program of comprehensive and coordinated medical and mental health care provided by a multidisciplinary group of providers who are trained in the specific health care needs of political violence survivors - including torture survivors, refugees, and trafficking victims .

Cape Cod Free Clinic

Falmouth

\$60,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports a program focused on improving 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 2007 – final year of funding from a three-year grant

Continued funding supports a comprehensive healthcare approach for homeless persons, including those at risk of becoming homeless. 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

Hampshire County

\$65,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports the continuation of a local network of primary care providers and specialists who offer services to the uninsured at 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

\$90,000 awarded for each 2007 and 2008

Implementation funding supports a comprehensive system change effort that was developed during a previous planning year to increase the focus on a patient's health insurance status as a "vital sign." Uninsured patients will receive case management services to ensure their health and access needs are properly managed.

Ecu-Health Care

Collaborators: North Adams Regional Hospital

North Adams

\$50,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports the administration and management of a voluntary primary care and specialist physician program including the care coordination and case management component, which helps residents enroll in health coverage programs and access free or reduced cost prescription drugs.

Great Brook Valley Health Center

Collaborators: African Community Development Corporation

Worcester

\$60,000 awarded for 2007 – final year of funding from a three-year grant

Continued funding supports a Patient Advocate/ Case Manager. The patient advocate/case manager conducts outreach to bring uninsured African immigrant men into the health center and will also provide primary health care services, culturally competent case management and health education.

Heywood Hospital/ Gateway Health Access Program

Collaborators: Health Alliance Hospital and Community Health Connections Family Health Center

Gardner

\$50,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports a regional program of coordinated and comprehensive access to medical, dental, and mental health care for uninsured individuals. The program will provide residents of the North Central Massachusetts area health care, through a network of providers who offer services at sliding scale rates.

Hilltown Community Health Center

Western Rural Massachusetts

\$65,000 awarded for each 2007, 2008 and 2009

Funding supports the planning and implementation of a medical home program for clients who remain uninsured following health reform. The program will expand community health worker and medical specialist availability and will address gaps in the availability of medically necessary services, including preventative services.

Holyoke Health Center

Collaborators: Hampden County Correctional Facility, After Incarceration Support Services, Behavioral Health Network, Community Partners Health Access Network and Valley Opportunity Council

Hampden County

\$45,000 awarded for 2007

An additional year of funding for planning supports the ongoing process of developing a comprehensive needs assessment and the design of 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, and collect data, then design and pilot interventions.

Island Health, Inc.

Martha's Vineyard

\$65,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports coordinated and improved 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 an Oral Health Working Group, which makes educational presentations in schools and operates a reduced-fee dental care program.

Justice Resource Institute

Downtown Boston Area

\$60,000 awarded for each 2007, 2008 and 2009

Funding supports the planning and implementation of a program that improves the continuity and completeness of care for an uninsured population facing numerous access barriers. The program will implement an outreach team model linking various departments into a system of care which will assist not only newly eligible clients but also those which remain uninsured with regular provider contact and care coordination.

Lowell Community Health Center

Collaborators: Lowell General Hospital, Saints Memorial Medical Center, Visiting Nurses Association of Greater Lowell, and Lowell City Health Department, Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Africa Assistance Center, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, and Adult Education Center.

Lowell

\$65,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding supports a program to improve health care access for uninsured residents of Greater Lowell. The city-wide collaboration increases access to specialty care and integrates specialty and primary care, reduces cultural barriers and promotes enrollment in public insurance programs. The program provides financial counseling, patient education and referrals to the health center.

Lynn Community Health Center

Lynn

\$95,000 awarded for each 2007 and 2008

Implementation funding supports a case management program for uninsured adults with serious chronic disease that was developed during the previous planning year. The program will utilize a nurse case manager to conduct patient assessment, treatment planning, follow up and care coordination with the client's primary care providers.

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 2007 – final year of funding from a three-year grant

Extended funding improves the organization, continuity and completeness of care for uninsured Vietnamese adults. By emphasizing on prevention services, the program brings patients into the health center earlier in the course of their illness, improves patient tracking, and provides medical and social service case management.

South End Community Health Center

Collaborators: Boston's Health Care for the Homeless, Project Place, St. Francis House, Suffolk County House of Corrections

Boston

\$35,000 awarded for 2007

An additional year of funding for planning supports the ongoing process of developing a medical home model for providing homeless, uninsured patients medical and mental health services. The project will further 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. The additional research will help develop a case management program that will provide comprehensive medical and mental care in one location.

Whittier Street Health Center

Collaborators: Suffolk County House of Corrections Office of Community Corrections, Roxbury Community Alliance for Health, and Lower Roxbury Coalition

Roxbury

\$60,000 awarded in 2007 – a one-year grant extension

Extended funding improves the health access of uninsured men of color residing in the Roxbury area. A case manager will work with men as they access care and will provide appropriate referrals, intensive follow up and self-management protocols to patients.