

BCBSMA FOUNDATION 2002 GRANT AWARDS
Strengthening the Voice for Access – Grant Summaries

Grants in the **Strengthening the Voice for Access** area will help promote the interests of uninsured and low-income residents across Massachusetts. Funding will strengthen community-based policy activities, increase consumer participation in public policy development, and promote collaboration among policy and advocacy organizations. The grants range from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Health Care For All

\$50,000

Continued support for the *Health Care Policy and Consumer Leadership Network* to build policy and decision-making capacity, education and empowerment, and develop and evaluate options for health coverage expansion while defending the state's Medicaid program and other access programs through the MassHealth Defense Group.

Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

Collaborators: Tri-City Mental Health and Retardation Center of Medford, Health Care for the Homeless/Community HealthLink of Worcester, Springfield Health Care for the Homeless/Mercy Hospital

\$50,000

Support to continue a statewide initiative to promote the health care interests of homeless people with disabilities, resulting in strategies and development of policy initiatives to address the unmet needs of this population for health care, income and housing to end their homelessness.

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

\$50,000

Continued support for *Community Advocacy for Change* which educates, organizes and mobilizes community health center board members and other community based advocates to respond to health policy changes that affect health center financing and patient access to community-based services.

Latin American Health Institute

\$40,000

Continued support for the Latin American Public Health Council – a collaborative effort to build the capacity of the Latin American community to participate in health policy through dissemination of informed analysis on health policy issues and preparation of community members for participation in strategic health advocacy efforts.

Massachusetts Senior Action Council

Collaborators: Senior Pharmacy Coalition (including AARP, Alzheimer's Association, Health Care for All, Greater Boston Legal Services among others)

\$40,000

Continued support for the *Campaign for Affordable Medications*, an initiative to increase civic activism and participation of seniors in efforts to lower the costs of prescription drugs.

Paraprofessional Health Care Institute

Collaborators: Health Care For All, Direct Care Workers Initiative (Alzheimer's Assoc., Greater Boston Legal Services, Mass. Senior Action, Home and Health Care Assoc. of Mass., Mass. Extended Care Federation, SEIU – Locals 285 and 767)

\$40,000

Continued support for the multi-year *Health Insurance for Health Care Workers* initiative to develop and promote principles and a policy framework to expand health insurance coverage for direct care workers.

Health Law Advocates

\$35,000

Support for HLA's *Dental Health Access Project* to increase access to dental care by instituting systemic change in the MassHealth dental program. HLA also aims to restore adult dental services for MassHealth members.

Massachusetts Community Health Worker Network

\$30,000

Funding to support their efforts to expand access to health care for the uninsured by developing the advocacy voice of community health workers and the people they serve.

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

\$35,000

Funding will enable MLRI to bring its expertise to bear on defending MassHealth and other publicly funded access programs from further restrictions and cuts, and provide training and technical assistance to other advocates and outreach workers who serve low-income and uninsured consumers.

Community Partners, Inc. (formerly AHEC/Community Partners)

\$30,000

Support to offer targeted training, conduct issue specific forums on topics that are relevant to community health access workers, and disseminate information, best practices and practical tools for frontline workers.

Women's Educational and Industrial Union

\$35,000

Support for the development of a Health Sufficiency Standard (HSS) which will create awareness of the costs of health care and illness, especially for women, and help advocate for policies to ensure access to health care for all women and families in Massachusetts.

Mass. Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition

\$30,000

Continued support for their *Immigrant Health Care Access Project* to increase access to and utilization of preventive health care services and benefits by immigrant families and their children.
