BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS DONATES \$350,000 IN WINTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Company's statewide not-for-profit partners can use unrestricted funds to support people's essential needs

BOSTON, Feb. 8, 2024 /<u>PRNewswire</u>/ -- <u>Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts</u> ("Blue Cross") will provide more than \$350,000 to 30 not-for-profit organizations working to support people in need this winter across Massachusetts.

The not-for-profits include regional food banks, shelters, YMCAs and other groups that can deliver services to their community members directly and quickly. The unrestricted grants may be used for groceries, winter clothing, hygiene and household items, heating assistance, and other services.

"We know many people are facing tough financial decisions that can impact their health and safety," said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross. "These organizations understand the neighborhood-specific needs of their communities, and we're proud to support their important work."



"At this moment, more individuals and families desperately need our services, while our costs are climbing higher," said Ronald Waddell, executive director and co-founder of Legendary Legacies in Worcester. "This funding from Blue Cross is not only financial aid for our organization, but also a catalyst for us to gear up, provide targeted assistance to more people, and take a significant step forward in our mission to make a real difference in our community."

Grant recipients

Statewide

Hope and Comfort Massachusetts Migrant Families Relief Fund Migrant Children Emergency Fund (a partnership of Cradles to Crayons, Horizons for Homeless Children and Neighborhood Villages)

Greater Boston

ABCD: Action for Boston Community Development Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's Community Resource & Wellness Center Eastie Farm Greater Boston Food Bank La Colaborativa Pine Street Inn West End House Boys & Girls Club Women's Lunch Place YMCA of Greater Boston

Northeastern Massachusetts

Merrimack Valley Food Bank Our Neighbor's Table YMCA of North Shore

Southeastern Massachusetts

Damien's Place Interfaith Social Services South Shore Food Bank / Weymouth Food Pantry YMCA of Cape Cod YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

Metrowest

Project Just Because South Middlesex Opportunity Council

Central Massachusetts

El Buen Samaritano Food Program Legendary Legacies Worcester Community Action Council Worcester County Food Bank YMCA of Central Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts

Berkshire Community Action Council Boys & Girls Clubs of Holyoke Community Action Pioneer Valley The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

About Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (<u>bluecrossma.org</u>) is a community-focused, tax-paying, not-for-profit health plan headquartered in Boston. We are committed to showing up for everyone like they're the only one and guiding our members to the exceptional health care they deserve – affordably, equitably and seamlessly. In keeping with our commitment, we are rated among the nation's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality. Connect with us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

SOURCE Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

For further information: Kelsey Pearse, kelsey.pearse@bcbsma.com