

New Fund Established to Support Community Health Centers'

Efforts on Vaccine Equity & Pandemic Recovery

BOSTON, MA -- The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers has launched the COVID-19 Vaccine & Recovery Fund, with \$4.35 million from an unparalleled collaboration of seven separate philanthropic organizations. The funds will amplify health centers' COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts, extend their reach to the most vulnerable and vaccine-hesitant residents, and help them support social and economic recovery in their communities.

Initial funding comes from the Barr Foundation, Klarman Foundation, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Boston Foundation, Liberty Mutual, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and Trefler Foundation. The investments recognize the unique and critical role community health centers have in reaching and serving the Commonwealth's communities of color and vulnerable populations.

"Our community health centers are providing local leadership throughout the Commonwealth by not only addressing the COVID-19 pandemic but also by providing equitable access to health care that will strengthen communities for a more just recovery," said Boston Foundation Vice President for Programs Orlando Watkins.

"This pandemic has reminded us time and again that while we all might be in the same storm, we are definitely not in the same boat," said Amanda Hadad, Associate Vice President, Caring and Social Justice, Combined Jewish Philanthropies. "CJP cannot accept the funding inequities that created the health disparities so clearly exposed by this pandemic."

The Vaccine & Recovery Fund will make an immediate investment of \$50,000 in each of the state's 52 health centers as early as next week, which will help support new hires and purchase technology, supplies, and equipment to quickly ramp up capacity to vaccinate more patients. Additionally, the initiative provides support to build regional and statewide shared services and leverage group purchasing to address common needs such as scheduling and outreach software, phone systems, legal guidance, and coordination of volunteers. Finally, the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers will receive funding to support health center vaccination efforts with a broad range of outreach, data analytics, clinical, and workforce programming.

"We are grateful to these philanthropic organizations for recognizing that health equity issues can only be addressed with big, bold steps and with both short- and long-term investments," said Michael Curry, President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. "This novel collaboration shows that together, yes, we can rebuild neighborhoods battered by the pandemic all while getting shots into the arms of those most affected by it. We hope to see more donors join the Fund."

Massachusetts' community health centers serve more than 1 million low-income patients from diverse backgrounds. The centers are integral to the neighborhoods they serve and well-positioned to work with residents on issues of trust and vaccine hesitancy, as well as lead those neighborhoods' recovery after the pandemic.



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“These communities are our homes, our workplaces, and our neighbors,” said Manny Lopes, President & CEO of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “The flexibility and immediacy of this funding will support us as we support them in battling and recovering from the nation’s biggest crisis in over a century.”

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The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (the League) is a 501 (c)(3) membership organization supporting and representing the Commonwealth’s 52 community health centers, which offer primary and preventive care to more than one million residents. The League serves as an information resource on community-based primary care to policymakers, opinion leaders, and the media. It provides a wide range of technical assistance to its health center members, including advocacy on health policy issues, support for workforce development, clinical care and technology initiatives, and guidance to state leaders and community-based organizations seeking to open health centers.

The Barr Foundation’s mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. Founded in 1997, Barr now has assets of \$2 billion, and has contributed more than \$1 billion to charitable causes. For more information, visit barrfoundation.org or follow @BarrFdn.

The mission of **Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston**, Greater Boston’s Jewish Federation, is to inspire and mobilize the diverse Greater Boston Jewish community to engage in building communities of learning and action that strengthen Jewish life and the world around us. For more information, please visit www.cjp.org.

The Klarman Family Foundation seeks to identify areas of unmet need and to advance solutions to addressing them. Underlying all of the Foundation’s work is a passionate belief in the promise and importance of creative thinking, strategic leadership and strong organizations to help bring about change. As a way to learn and create greater impact, the Foundation values acting in partnership with other funders. Its work spans regionally, nationally and internationally and focuses on expanding access to vital services and enrichment opportunities in Greater Boston; ensuring a healthy democracy; supporting the Jewish community and Israel; and, advancing understanding of the biological basis of health and illness.

Established in 2003, the **Liberty Mutual Foundation** empowers people experiencing varying levels of vulnerability, including partnering with organizations that support people experiencing homelessness, advancing access for people with disabilities and expanding educational opportunities for underserved students. Over the past decade, Liberty and its employees have distributed nearly \$520 million, including



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direct grants to more than 1,300 nonprofits and thousands of additional organizations through the company's Liberty Torchbearers matching programs.

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston's community foundation, brings people and resources together to solve Boston's big problems. Established in 1915, it is one of the largest community foundations in the nation—with net assets of \$1.3 billion. In 2020, the Foundation and its donors paid \$215 million in grants to nonprofit organizations. The Foundation works in close partnership with its donors, with more than 1,000 separate charitable funds established for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. It also serves as a major civic leader, think tank and advocacy organization, commissioning research into the most critical issues of our time and helping to shape public policy designed to advance opportunity for everyone in Greater Boston.

The Trefler Foundation seeks to become a vital voice in the communities we serve, and offer support where it's needed most. The Foundation is guided by its founding principle: to follow critical need, not precedent. The Foundation sees its giving as an opportunity to support new ideas in new ways and, in doing so, to create progress and change in Greater Boston. Our work focuses on equalizing healthcare access, enhancing educational opportunity and expanding career development for all. These are the interconnected areas of opportunity that we seek to address in order to bridge the divide within Greater Boston. For more information, please visit www.treflerfoundation.org