BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS PROVIDES \$300,000 IN HEATING ASSISTANCE FUNDS

Company provides emergency funding to combat impact of high fuel costs

BOSTON, Jan. 31, 2023 / PRNewswire / -- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross") is providing \$300,000 to support heating assistance across Massachusetts — especially critical as temperatures are expected to drop below zero late this week. The funds will be distributed to more than 20 not-for-profit organizations that provide fuel assistance to low-income families across the state.



The Blue Cross grants will bolster local safety nets for communities during a winter when home heating costs are rojected to be significantly higher for all heating fuel sources. The organizations being supported by these grants provide direct cash to families and individuals, including those who may not be eligible for federal and state energy funds.

"Access to safe home heating is essential for good health," saidJeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross. "We're proud to support not-for-profits across the state and their work to ensure the health and safety of families and individuals this winter."

"This winter, higher gas and heating costs are adding an additional burden and stress for families and individuals," saysRick Doane, executive director of Interfaith Social Services. "Blue Cross is stepping up to help us support those in need, ensuring they can safely heat their homes without sacrificing essentials like food or medicine."

Blue Cross winter grant recipients:

| ORGANIZATION | COMMUNITY SERVED |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Action for Boston Community Development | Boston |
| Berkshire Community Action Opportunity Council | Berkshires/Western MA |
| BGC Holyoke | Holyoke/Western MA |
| <u>Citizens for Citizens</u> | Fall River |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | Pioneer Valley |
| Community Teamwork | North Shore |
| East Boston Social Centers | Boston |
| Heading Home | Boston/Cambridge/Somerville |
| Interfaith Social Services Homesafe | South Shore/Quincy |
| Old Colony YMCA | South Shore/Brockton |
| People Acting in Community Endeavors | New Bedford |
| Pine Street Inn | Boston |
| Salvation Army Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy | |
| <u>Fund</u> | State-wide |
| Self-Help, Inc. | Brockton |
| South Shore Community Action Council | South Shore |
| Springfield Partners for Community Action | Springfield |
| St. Francis House | Boston |
| The Boston Foundation Food, Fuel & Shelter Fund | Boston |
| West End House | Brighton |

| Worcester Community Action Council | Worcester |
|------------------------------------|-----------|

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 the relentless pursuit of quality, affordable and equitable health care with an unparalleled consumer experience. Consistent with our promise to always put our members first, 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