



**Tufts Health Plan Foundation Awards JF&CS Grant to Continue Coordinating  
the Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative Through 2017**

For Immediate Release: January 18, 2017

Waltham, MA – On Monday, December 19, 2016, the Tufts Health Plan Foundation announced new community investments of more than \$1.1 million in the areas of policy and advocacy that support healthy aging. JF&CS is thankful to be one of the grant recipients. This additional support will allow our agency to continue coordinating the Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative through the end of 2017.

The Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative (DMFI) is a whole-community response to create dementia friendly communities. Dementia friendly communities are safe, informed, and respectful and engage all members of the community to meet the needs of the growing number of people living with dementia so they can remain part of the fabric of our vibrant community life.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, JF&CS, and many partner organizations convened DFMI in May 2016 to provide statewide support and coordination for the efforts to help our communities better include and support individuals living with dementia and their family members, friends, and professional caregivers. DFMI aims to link communities, businesses, and organizations across Massachusetts to tools, resources, and best practices.

“The momentum is building around age-friendly communities, and we are excited to partner with state and local leaders in their work to consider and include older adults,” said Nora Moreno Cargie, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship for Tufts Health Plan and president of its Foundation. “We are proud collaborators on initiatives that promote cross-sector conversations, address challenges and inequities facing communities, and advance policies and practices that support all ages.”

“We are grateful to Tufts Health Plan Foundation for continuing to support the Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative (DFMI),” shared Beth Soltzberg, Director, JF&CS Alzheimer’s/Related Disorders Family Support. “We are committed to engaging participants from diverse sectors, cultural and geographic communities, and to integrating our efforts with those of the growing age-friendly movement.”

The Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative is made possible by support from Tufts Health Plan Foundation, and also by collaborative leadership with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and the DFMI management committee, including the Alzheimer’s Association MA/NH Chapter, LeadingAge Massachusetts, Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging, and the Multicultural Coalition on Aging. We also thank the forty-plus organizations across Massachusetts that form our DFMI advisory group.

Visit [www.jfcsboston.org/DementiaFriendlyMA](http://www.jfcsboston.org/DementiaFriendlyMA) or contact Beth Soltzberg, Director, JF&CS Alzheimer’s/Related Disorders Family Support, at [bsoltzberg@jfcsboston.org](mailto:bsoltzberg@jfcsboston.org) for more information about the Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative.

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**About Jewish Family & Children's Service**

For 150 years, Jewish Family & Children's Service has provided exceptional human service and health care programs, guided by Jewish traditions of social responsibility, compassion, and respect for all members of the community. With an integrated network of more than 40 programs serving communities throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts, JF&CS helps people of all faiths and backgrounds meet life's challenges. JF&CS programs focus on serving particularly vulnerable populations including children and adults with disabilities or mental illness, new mothers and their infants, seniors living with chronic conditions, and people experiencing financial crisis, hunger, or domestic abuse. Visit [www.jfcsboston.org](http://www.jfcsboston.org) for more information.

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