

Tufts Health Plan Foundation announces new investments

The Tufts Health Plan Foundation recently announced new community investments of more than \$1.1 million in the area of policy and advocacy. These grants reflect the foundation's commitment to advancing age-friendly policies and practices that are relevant, focus on older adults and include them in community solutions. The foundation is also providing year-two support for an additional seven multi-year initiatives. In 2016, the foundation invested more than \$2.9 million in community.

The new investments include initiatives to improve access to affordable housing and supportive services for older adults; address gaps that limit access to services and healthy, nutritious food; and engage more seniors as advocates for their communities. They are aligned with the foundation's support for age-friendly communities.

The 13 new grants engage nearly 150 community organizations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Twelve Policy and Advocacy grants address community and civic engagement as well as access to programs and services.

■ **Citizens Housing and Planning Association**, in Boston, Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance. To engage organizations that serve older adults and people with disabilities to advocate for statewide zoning and housing development reform that creates walkable communities and increases housing options,

both supporting growth of age-friendly communities.

■ **Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiatives**, in Boston, Development Without Displacement. To educate, train and support residents as advocates for policy changes that result in stable, affordable housing and long-term plans that focus on development without displacement.

■ **Friends of Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly**, in Brighton, Housing for Seniors Advocacy Project. To develop/conduct research that provides evidence to advance policy changes promoting affordable senior housing that integrates supportive services.

■ **Health Resources in Action**, in Boston, Boston Alliance for Community Health. To train community residents to advocate for policies, systems and environmental changes that make communities healthier for everyone as they age.

■ **Healthy Waltham**, in Waltham, Connections for Healthier Aging in Waltham. To support Waltham Connections, a collaboration of seniors and stakeholders from community organizations and city government that will focus on advocacy and develop programs to support diverse populations and address gaps in access.

■ **Jewish Family and Children's Services**, in Waltham, Dementia-Friendly Massachusetts Initiative. To advance dementia-friendly initiatives that accelerate and expand systems and

grassroots programs across Massachusetts.

■ **Massachusetts Association of Home Care Programs/ Area Agencies on Aging**, in Bedford, The RIGHT Program: Rapid Integration for Good Health Transitions. To tackle barriers that limit care in community after a hospital discharge and advocate for improved policies and best practices that support healthy aging in community.

■ **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**, in Boston, Elder Food Security Project. To improve and refine the system used to access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and ensure that older adults in most need are able to access and retain critical benefits.

■ **Massachusetts Public Health Association**, in Boston, Mobilizing for Prevention, Equity and Age-Friendly Communities. To engage in statewide policy initiatives that support the development of age-friendly communities by addressing the social determinants of health such as access to affordable food, housing, and transportation.

■ **Operation A.B.L.E.**, in Boston, ABLE Employer Outreach and Education. To develop an advocacy and public awareness campaign that strengthens employers' understanding of the value of mature workers and expands the network of those hiring mature workers.

■ **Rhode Island College Foundation**, in Providence, Rhode Island, Implementa-

tion of Aging in Community Report Recommendations. To support specific recommendations from the 2016 Aging in Community report that includes bolstering community-based services and making Rhode Island communities more age-friendly.

- Senior Agenda Coalition, in Providence, Rhode Island, Senior Voices for Aging in Community. To engage seniors and develop them as advocates for policy changes affecting their communities, specifically around transportation.

The foundation also awarded a grant under the foundation's Systems and Best Practices focus area. This investment supports:

- Health Resources in Action, in Boston, Building Massachusetts' Statewide Capacity to Effectively Conduct Health Impact Assessments and Community Health Improvement Initiatives. To provide three regional training culminating in a statewide conference that mobilizes community partners in the coordination, identification, and initiation of health impact assessments for their regions and Massachusetts.

For more information, visit tuftshealthplanfoundation.org.