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Foundations Coordinate to Distribute \$8.4M Statewide



December 4, 2012 — For the fourth consecutive year a consortium of corporate, public, and private foundations are coordinating their fundraising and philanthropy—and encouraging individuals to give to nonprofits—to help address hunger, housing, heating, and health issues in Massachusetts this winter.

"MassNeeds is unusual in philanthropy, since most donors tend to operate independently and few take the time to talk and identify unmet needs to be collaborative," said Blake Jordan, executive director of **The Highland Street Foundation**, a co-founder of the collaborative.

"The impact of individual's dollars will be greater," he said, noting that better coordination between funders will result in "more strategic giving."

Jordan said the group's 42 funders have collectively earmarked \$8.4 million, which will be distributed through "hundreds of programs statewide," mostly by the end of December.

Last year, 20 funders earmarked \$3.7 million for the same effort, which was distributed through 134 organizations. A spokesperson said MassNeeds will support more than 150 nonprofits this year.

He said an indication of the collaborative's success can be measured by the growth in its membership, but noted that it is difficult to track exactly how much additional funding flowed into the funding organizations, as many people may donate to those organizations without specifying that their funds should support MassNeeds specifically.

Catherine D'Amato, executive director of **The Greater Boston Food Bank**, the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, said one in 11 Massachusetts residents is food insecure—meaning they seek assistance through a food pantry, soup kitchen, or shelter—which compares to one in seven nationally.

"Food insecurity has become a middle class problem in Massachusetts," she said, adding that expected reductions in federal assistance will add to food insecurity.

Kathy Tobin, energy programs director, **Action for Boston Community Development** (ABCD), Boston's primary antipoverty agency, said, predictions of a cold winter means that oil prices will rise nine percent and gas prices will increase 15%, making for "a challenging winter for households in need."

Assistance provided by MassNeeds, which used to be emergency in nature, has become the "new normal, and is not a one-time issue," said Allison Bauer, program director at **The Boston Foundation**, which, along with **Eos Foundation**, also helped co-found the effort in 2009.

Current MassSave funders include the following:

- Albert W. Rice Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Arbella Mutual Insurance
- Alfred E. Chase Charity Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- BNY Mellon
- The Boston Foundation *
- Brookline Community Foundation
- Cambridge Community Foundation
- Cape Cod Foundation
- Charles F. Bacon Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Charles H. Farnsworth Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Citizens Bank and the Citizen Bank Foundation
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies
- Eos Foundation *
- Essex County Community Foundation
- Fish Family Foundation
- Foundation for MetroWest
- Foundation to Be Named Later
- Frank W. and Carl S. Adams Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- GMA Foundations' Clients
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Harold Brooks Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Henry Luce Foundation

- Highland Street Foundation *
- Horace A. Moses Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Ida S. Barter Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Island Foundation
- John Chany Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- John W. Boynton Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Klarman Family Foundation
- Linde Family Foundation
- Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Lovett-Woodsum Foundation
- Lynch Foundation
- The Mabel A. Horne Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- The Pearson Foundation Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Perpetual Trust For Charitable Giving, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- State Street Corporation and the State Street Foundation
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
- United Way of Pioneer Valley
- US Trust Philanthropic Solutions, Bank of America

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