Strengthening the Safety Net 2017
Improving access to high quality health care in Michigan

2017 Request for applications
Application deadline: June 9, 2017
bcbsm.com/safetynet
Strengthening the Safety Net 2017

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has a unique social mission and a commitment to improving the health of everyone in the state. Over the past 12 years, Blue Cross has invested more than $12 million in Strengthening the Safety Net grants to increase access to affordable health care. These grants helped more than 50 clinics across Michigan provide free or low-cost medical and dental treatment for uninsured and underinsured residents of Michigan. Supporting safety net clinics is one way Blue Cross fulfills its social mission to expand access to health care services, enhance the quality of care and address major health issues to create a healthier Michigan.

According to Healthy People 2020, people with a usual source of health care have better health outcomes with fewer health disparities and costs. The Strengthening the Safety Net grants promote healthier workers, stronger families, engaged communities and overall cost savings for the health care system.

Blue Cross is pleased to announce the 2017 Strengthening the Safety Net grant applications. Safety net medical, dental, mental health, vision, pharmacy and specialty care providers are encouraged to apply.
Applications are now being accepted for 2017 funding

Applicants may apply for a grant to support clinic operations OR services as a medical home.

1. Clinic Operations
   Safety net clinics that provide episodic care, are open for limited hours and treat more than 100 uninsured and underinsured patients annually are eligible to apply for up to $12,500 to support their operations.

2. Medical and Dental Homes¹
   Clinics that serve as medical or dental homes and are open for at least 30 hours per week or bill Medicaid are eligible to apply for up to $25,000 to support team-based approaches to care. Awards at this level require a $10,000 match.

The final award amounts will be determined based on the number of applications received, the scope of applications and the amount of funding available.

As in the past, all grantees are expected to provide health care and health insurance enrollment services, clinical quality assurance and referrals to services outside of the clinic that influence health.

• Enrollment services may be offered on-site or by referral to a reliable partner who can support patients with enrollment or re-enrollment and report to the clinic on their enrollment encounters.
• Medical directors must routinely report to the board of directors on clinical quality.
• Grantees must link patients to services that support the social, environmental and tangible dimensions of the patients’ lives, such as housing, transportation, nutrition and job placement.

Applicants who are interested in applying for funding as a medical home should indicate their interest on the application and submit a letter of commitment from the matching donor by Aug. 31, 2017. These matching funds are expected to be new to your clinic.

¹Definitions: A medical home delivers team-based care led by a medical provider that is intended to be comprehensive and continuous to maximize patient health. Free clinics that provide this model of care and help patients gain coverage can be considered medical homes even if they help newly insured patients transition to a permanent health care home. Similarly, a dental home offers an ongoing relationship between a dentist and patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuous, coordinated and family-centered way.

Visit bcbsm.com/safetynet for more information.
Grant and reporting requirements

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Eligibility

Safety net clinics must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Be based in Michigan with a mission to serve low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients
2. Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization or be a community-based nonprofit organization paired with a 501(c)(3) organization
3. Provide medical, dental, vision, mental health, pharmacy or specialty care services to at least 100 patients and all interested adults
4. Provide services at little or no cost to patients
5. Work with volunteer administrators and clinicians
6. Have a physician serving as medical director
7. Be in operation for at least two years
8. Be in good standing on all previous Blue Cross grants, if applicable

Grantees from prior years are eligible to apply in 2017, provided they meet all of the eligibility requirements.
Use of Blue Cross grant funds

Blue Cross anticipates distributing funds by September 29, 2017, through electronic funds transfer. These funds may be used for clinic operations and services as described in your application for the following types of expenses:

- Equipment and medical supplies
- Patient medication
- Patient education related to health and health care
- Information technology hardware or software
- Facilities, including rent, utilities and repairs
- Communications such as printing, postage and office supplies
- Salaries, wages and benefits
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Discounted contract services such as lab, X-ray, specialty care, information technology support and grant writing

Grant and reporting expectations

Strengthening the Safety Net grants are awarded to increase access to affordable health care for the uninsured and underinsured in Michigan. Grant funding may be used to support ongoing operations as well as expand hours and services, team-based approaches to care, patient navigation and enrollment, or enabling services. Grantees will be required to submit a mid-year and a year-end report on the services provided with grant funds, including:

- A brief narrative of activities completed with grant funds, including accomplishments and challenges
- Data on patient demographics, volunteer engagement, clinical services, enrollment support and referrals provided
- A description of other resources that your clinic provides or helps patients obtain, including pharmaceutical assistance and specialty care access
- A financial report comparing budgeted to actual expenses

The mid-year status report will be due by April 30, 2018, and the year-end status report will be due by November 15, 2018.
Application process

If you choose to apply, submit your completed application no later than June 9, 2017. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered for funding.

All instructions and application forms are available at bcbsm.com/safetynet. Completed applications must be received no later than June 9, 2017. Your application isn’t complete until we receive both your completed application form and the following materials.

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter for the free clinic or fiduciary organization
  Applicants for free clinics with fiduciaries must submit a letter certifying an agreement to serve as fiduciary and comply with all terms and conditions in this request and Blue Cross’s conditions of the grant. The letter must be signed by an individual with full authority to bind the fiduciary organization and scanned signatures are acceptable

- Roster of the free clinic’s board of directors, including names, organizational affiliations, phone numbers and email addresses

- The clinic’s most recent annual report. If you don’t produce an annual report, submit a one- to two-page summary of 2016 accomplishments or include copies of board meetings minutes from 2016

- The clinic’s revenue and expense budget for the most recent one-year period available

- Local media form

- Automated Clearing House electronic payment form. Please check this carefully

- IRS Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

All of these materials must be submitted in a single email addressed to the Social Mission department at safetynet@bcbsm.com.

Hard copies of documents that can’t be emailed may be mailed to the following address. Materials that are postmarked by June 9, 2017, will be considered.

Strengthening the Safety Net Grant Program — MC L10C
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
232 S. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933-1504

Applicants are responsible for verifying that their applications have been received. If the person identified as the primary contact on your application doesn’t receive a confirmation email by June 12, 2017, Blue Cross may not have received the application. Please email the Social Mission department to follow up at safetynet@bcbsm.com. Include your name, the name of your clinic and your phone number.
Additional information
To learn more, visit bcbsm.com/safetynet where you’ll find application and reporting forms, answers to frequently asked questions and other materials related to this grant opportunity.

Send an email with your questions to safetynet@bcbsm.com. Be sure to include your name, clinic name and phone number in the email so we can respond accordingly.

Accountability
By submitting an application for Strengthening the Safety Net funding, your clinic agrees to:

• Use awarded funds to cover eligible expenses consistent with your completed application and approved by Blue Cross
• Secure Blue Cross approval before deviating from your approved budget
• Spend all funds by September 30, 2018
• Contact Blue Cross in July 2018 if any unspent funds aren’t yet committed, so our staff can work with you to use remaining funds according to the grant program
• Participate in conference calls with Blue Cross staff upon request
• Submit a mid-year status report and a final status report including a brief narrative of activities completed, core clinic and patient demographic data and a financial report comparing budgeted to actual expenses. Report requirements and occasional requests for additional information, if any, will be designed to minimize grantee effort while providing Blue Cross with the data necessary to assess program effectiveness and promote program efforts
• Adhere to Blue Cross’ guidelines for media releases and other communications about this grant. These guidelines focus on the use of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan logo, availability of assistance from Blue Cross in writing media releases and how and when to contact Blue Cross about grant announcements
• Comply with the Blue Cross conditions of grant, available at bcbsm.com/safetynet.
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Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan

Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association