



## **The Affordable Care Act Implementation Fund**

### **September 13, 2011**

Community Catalyst's Affordable Care Act Implementation Fund provides support to state-based health advocates to ensure effective and consumer-focused implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The first round of funding supports the work of state and local advocacy organizations in the following states: California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Washington. The Fund will make grants totaling \$3 million in 2011.

The Fund is a collaboration by a number of foundations including The Atlantic Philanthropies, The California Endowment, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, and The Rockefeller Foundation. The Fund offers crucial support to state and local advocates during an especially historic moment – when the promise of expanded health care coverage and stronger, healthier communities is within reach if we work together.

#### **Background: Why an investment in state advocacy?**

In addition to giving 30 million people new access to affordable health insurance, successful implementation of the ACA will help reduce poverty, improve health equity, and slow the growth of health care costs while increasing care quality.

The creation of the Fund followed a recent report, "[Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Strategies for Successful State Implementation of the Affordable Care Act](#)," that provides a roadmap for implementation, and outlines the critical roles state advocates, national organizations and funders will play. As the report details, fulfilling the promise of the law depends on state-level policy decisions. State and local consumer advocates are critical to ensuring those decisions address the concerns and priorities of families and individuals and that their interests are protected, especially in the case of vulnerable populations.

State advocates are tackling a wide range of tasks to push for the law's successful implementation, from educating and mobilizing the communities that will benefit from the law to analyzing policy and legal issues to make sure decisions are grounded in people's needs

#### **Goals and selection process**

The goal of the Fund is to make timely and strategic investments in crucial state-based advocacy initiatives that will maximize the impact state consumer advocates have on implementation nationwide. To foster collaboration and coordination among local advocacy organizations, the Fund invited only one application grant application from advocacy organizations in each eligible state.

Eligible states were selected based on a thorough assessment of the potential for successful implementation or the significance of local advocacy, existing advocacy capacity, the possibility for regional or national impact, and available resources. Community Catalyst has worked with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Families USA, the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, Health Care for America Now, other national advocacy organizations and the Fund Advisory Group in the selection process.

## Grant Support

Grants support work towards specific ACA implementation policy outcomes utilizing the tools of public education, policy and legal advocacy, communications, coalition-building, and grassroots organizing and mobilization. Issue areas include Exchanges, Medicaid, private insurance reforms, health equity, and CHIP. Grant size varies by state and ranges from \$75,000 to \$250,000 per year

One of the Fund's goals is to increase the overall funding available for state-based implementation work by encouraging the participation of new foundation partners and other major donors. To this end, grantees are required to seek 1:1 matching funds from local and state foundations and individual donors. This creates an opportunity for local and state foundations and donors to support implementation in a way that suits their special priorities and interests, building on the grants provided by the Fund. The recent Grantmakers in Health report "[Implementing Health Care Reform: Funders and Advocates Respond to the Challenge](#)" provides many ways in which funders have worked with advocates to support implementation efforts.

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or email questions to [ACAFund@communitycatalyst.org](mailto:ACAFund@communitycatalyst.org).