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Health Care

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota lists recipients for \$1.2 million grant project



Bukata Hayes is Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota's first vice president of racial and health equity.

STACEY OLSON, NEW LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

By Naasir Akailvi – Web reporter, Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal Oct 28, 2021, 12:52pm EDT

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The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation has awarded over \$1.2 million in grants to increase

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access to health care across Minnesota.

The grants are part of an effort to help community organizations connect people who are uninsured and eligible for government-backed plans to the coverage that works best for them.

"These grants are the latest way the Foundation is advancing racial and health equity by supporting organizations embedded in the communities most impacted by this lack of access, including communities of color, Indigenous communities, the LGBTQ community and those in a lower income bracket.

"said Bukata Hayes, Foundation board chair and vice president of racial and health equity at Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Earlier this week, the Blues <u>announced</u> a partnership with the <u>Minneapolis Institute</u> of Arts to create an art exhibition that spotlights racism as a public health crisis. These grants represent the health care specialist continuing its work to raise awareness about racial disparities in health care.

The organizations that will be receiving grants are: African Community Services, Minneapolis; African Community Senior Services, Minneapolis; Care Clinic, Red Wing; CLUES, St. Paul; Hmong American Partnership, St. Paul; Native American Community Clinic, Minneapolis; Northpoint Health and Wellness, Minneapolis; Open Door Health Center, Mankato; Rainbow Health, St. Paul; University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Minneapolis; Seeds of Justice (Voices for Racial Justice), Worthington.

Blue Cross has awarded over \$63 million to over 500 nonprofits since its establishment in 1986.

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