

# GRANTMAKER FOCUS



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## The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation

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The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) Foundation supports research and innovative programs to improve the health of Michigan residents. BCBSM established the foundation in 1980 with an \$800,000 contribution. Three years later, Michigan physicians endowed the BCBSM Foundation with \$19.2 million in incentive funds from a BCBSM cost-containment program. Since then the BCBSM Foundation's assets have grown to approximately \$60 million.

**Program Information:** The BCBSM Foundation provides more than \$2 million each year in grants to help improve quality, cost, and access to care in the health care system. The grant programs offered by the foundation create partnerships with researchers, health professionals, and community organizations. The goal of these partnerships is to improve the health and health care of Michigan residents by examining important health care issues, developing interventions, improving processes, and building and supporting grassroots community organizations and their health care initiatives.

### ► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$60 million (FY 2014)  
Amount Dedicated to Health Related Grants: \$2.1 million (FY2014)

### ► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Investigator Initiated Research Program** – The Investigator Initiated Research Program is available to health care researchers interested in finding ways to improve health and health care in Michigan. Projects address health care quality, costs, and access to services, and include research. Grants average \$75,000 for one year (\$737,000).
- **Community Health Matching Grant Program** – Community Health Matching Grant Program encourages community-based nonprofit organizations to develop, test, or validate new approaches that address community health problems. Matching funds are available for programs that help increase access to health care, address critical public health issues, improve the quality of care, and enhance efficiency. This program provides grants of up to \$25,000 per year for two years (\$673,750).
- **Request for Proposal Program** – The BCBSM Foundation periodically identifies important health issues and solicits proposals through its Request for Proposal Program, by which individual topics are explored within the context of quality, cost, access to care, and community health (\$500,000).

- **Student Awards Program** – The Student Awards Program is available to medical and doctoral students enrolled in Michigan universities. This one-year, \$3,000 award supports research for Ph.D. doctoral dissertations and research by students in medical schools (\$90,000).
- **Physician Investigator Research Award** – The Physician Investigator Research Award provides seed money to physicians to explore the merits of a particular research idea for further study. The BCBSM Foundation offers grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that include pilot, feasibility, or small research studies in clinical or health services research (\$75,000).
- **Frank J. McDevitt, D.O. Excellence in Research Award** – This honor recognizes researchers, both physicians and investigators with terminal research degrees, who make significant contributions to improving health care in Michigan. A total of four awards of \$10,000 are given annually (\$40,000).
- **Proposal Development Award** – This award for technical assistance offers \$3,500 to help nonprofit organizations develop proposals for health and medical care projects (\$7,000).
- **Excellence in Research Award for Students** – Awarded to students attending universities in Michigan, the Excellence in Research Award for Students is designed to identify students who have made contributions to health and medical care research literature. Three awards in the amounts of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 are given annually (\$2,250).

**Community health can be achieved when supported by collaborations:** “*At the BCBSM*

*Foundation, we partner with like-minded organizations to improve the access, cost, and quality of health care for Michigan families. We are constantly building and improving our collaborations with local nonprofit and government agencies to address the economic, educational, community, and environmental concerns that drive poor health outcomes.*”

**Audrey Harvey**  
Executive Director and CEO

