



FACT SHEET

Looking beyond health care today for ideas that create healthier communities tomorrow

WHO WE ARE

As the philanthropic arm of Minnesota's largest health plan, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation has the opportunity to address significant influences on health that are beyond the traditional reach of the health care system. Under our purpose — *looking beyond health care today for ideas that create healthier communities tomorrow* — we work to improve health in Minnesota by responding to a growing recognition that health is not just the result of genes, lifestyle and access to health care. It is also determined by social, economic and environmental conditions that have an impact on health, the vitality of our communities and the opportunities available to all.

WHAT WE FUND

Our focus is health and early childhood development, housing, social connectedness and the environment. If more Minnesotans have a healthy childhood, live in safe and affordable homes and communities, and feel socially connected, our state will be healthier. By moving upstream, we complement the work of other Blue Cross divisions, addressing the social factors that lead to health inequities.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our long-term commitment combines grantmaking with operating programs in four strategic areas:

- **Immigrant health and integration** — *Healthy Together: Creating Community with New Americans* is a statewide grantmaking initiative to reduce health disparities for immigrants by building social connectedness and relationships between newcomers and broader communities. It bridges our upstream health focus with a former priority to help people with unique cultural needs navigate the health care system.
- **Growing Up Healthy: Kids and Communities** — A second statewide grantmaking initiative helps communities work across sectors in new ways to create an environment that nurtures the healthy growth and development of children from birth to age five. It builds on lessons learned from our *Growing Up Healthy in Minnesota* program to increase preventive care for children, especially those from ethnic and minority communities.
- **Policy support for health determinants** — We support work to build *public awareness and policy support* for the social, environmental and economic conditions that promote health.
- **Health leadership** — We are creating a *leadership program* to recognize and develop community leaders to effectively address the connections between health and social, economic and environmental issues.

BLUE CROSS FOUNDATION STAFF

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Since it was established in 1986, the Blue Cross Foundation has awarded more than \$20 million to improve health in Minnesota.