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BIDMC Invests in NSMHA Program to Break Down Barriers to Mental Health Services in Chelsea

CHELSEA – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) has selected 17 local organizations, including North Suffolk Mental Health Association, to receive funding for impactful initiatives in the areas of housing affordability, jobs and financial security, and behavioral health. This funding represents a significant portion of the \$18.4 million dollars that will be invested into the community over the next six years as part of the Massachusetts Determination of Need (DoN) process for BIDMC's new inpatient building.

BIDMC's Community-Based Health Initiative awarded \$270,000 to NSMHA to improve access to behavioral health services in the city of Chelsea over the next two years. The *Latino Community Advance Response Team (Latino CART)* will start breaking down the racial and ethnic inequities in behavioral health care currently experienced within Chelsea's Hispanic and Latino population by ensuring direct access to culturally sensitive, quality clinical intensive case management supports.

"There are many residents who arrive in Chelsea with overwhelming amounts of unaddressed trauma that is compounded by their inability to access adequate clinical and/or therapeutic supports," said Emmy Porto, NSMHA's Director of Community-Based Services. "This also puts them at higher risk for substance use. This grant will allow our bilingual, bicultural clinicians to work exclusively with uninsured and underinsured individuals between the ages of 10 and 75 who struggle to access mental health and other services."

The primary goal of Latino CART will be to assess individual needs and teach appropriate coping skills and response strategies that will allow them to thrive within their community. The program will also help individuals and their families understanding the social supports and health-related resources available the community and how to connect with those resources.

"BIDMC has a proud history of supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities," said Pete Healy, President of BIDMC. "This important milestone reflects our commitment to all the populations that we serve. We look forward to working with these impactful organizations to support programs and initiatives that lead to more equitable and healthy communities."

BIDMC will award \$6.8 million over three years to 17 local non-profit organizations working in the neighborhoods of Allston/Brighton, Bowdoin/Geneva, Chinatown, Fenway/Kenmore, Mission Hill, and Roxbury and the City of Chelsea. The BIDMC Community Benefits Advisory Committee – made up of local leaders and residents – led a community-engaged process to identify health needs and strengths through public meetings, focus groups, engagement partnerships with Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative and others, and thoughtful reviews of evidence-based and informed strategies. BIDMC adopted the full set of recommendations from the Committee.

Read the BIDMC press release [here](#).