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For Immediate Release

Community Benefits Advisory Council Awards \$10K in Grants to Local Agencies

Palmer/Ware (October 2, 2019) The Baystate Mary and Baystate Wing Hospital Community Benefit Advisory Council has announced a of a total of \$10,000 in mini grants to benefit local community-based nonprofit organizations to help address unmet health and social needs in the Quaboag Hills Region of Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester County.

The CBAC was gifted \$10,000 to be awarded as mini grants for the purpose of addressing priority health needs. The funds were made possible from the medical staff dues paid by Baystate Mary Lane Hospital physicians over [the](#) years.

“The purpose of these grants is to positively impact the lives of people living in Ware and surrounding communities,” said Dr. Scott Siegel, who serves as the chief of the Department of Pediatrics for Baystate Wing Hospital and the Medical Director for Baystate Medical Practices, Quabbin Pediatrics/Quabbin Adult Medicine in Ware.

Programs supported by the hospital’s grant investments include:

Tutoring at E2E - Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation - Grant funds to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation will provide tutors for math, reading, writing and language skills to local residents seeking to upgrade their skills for educational or job related needs, or self-esteem. These services would be free for residents from Low-to Moderate Income households and on a sliding fee scale for individuals that are more affluent. Both one-to-one and group sessions are available.

Ware High School Certified Nursing Assistant Program - Grant funds were awarded to the Ware High School Certified Nursing (CNA) Training Program held in collaboration with Holyoke Community College. The funds help to support set up of the CNA program that began in September. The course curriculum offers 260 hours of classroom instruction and 48 hours of clinical training for Ware High School Students as an elective. The course which includes career pathway advising and job placement services will also provide the students with Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide certification, CPR/First Aide, and Healthcare Interactive for basic or advanced dementia care.

Franklin Hampshire County Youth Employment Fund - The grant funds will help the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board set up a Youth Employment Fund for greater Ware as the culminating project in a 3-year United States Department of Labor Summer Jobs & Beyond initiative. Designated Youth Employment Funds will go to direct support of youth employment to assist the short term work experience.

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Welcoming Women Veterans Home, The Brookfield Institute - The grant funds will aid the Brookfield Institute's outreach and support to women veterans. Grant funds will help to expand the scope of Welcome Home Place, a monthly Drop In Center for veterans, to more intentionally include women who have served in the Armed forces, including veterans, active duty military, National Guard or Reserves.

"We are excited to be working with these community partners," said Michael Moran, president and chief administrative officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region which includes Baystate Mary Lane and Baystate Wing Hospital. "They join us in our continued commitment to address social determinants of health and reduce health disparities in our region. We are proud to partner with area community agencies who know and understand the unique needs and challenges of our community and can help us create local solutions."

For more information about Baystate Health's Community Health Needs Assessment and funding opportunities visit the online portal at [Baystate Health Community Health Needs Assessment](#).

In attached photo: Community Benefit Advisory Council grant recipient, Ware High School CNA students with State Representative Todd Smola, Carrie Latulippe, RN, CNA class instructor, Gene Rich, Ware Junior Senior High School Principal, Stuart Beckley, Ware Town Manager, Dr. Marlene DiLeo, Superintendent of Ware Public Schools, Kermit Dunkelberg, Holyoke Community College Assistant Vice President, and Michael Moran, president and chief administrative officer of Baystate Mary Lane and Baystate Wing Hospital.