



## **Major Grants – FY17**

**Total: \$1,565,750**

### **Miami-Dade**

**Catholic Charities Legal Services Archdiocese of Miami Inc., Wilton Manors, FL**  
**Disabled Immigrants with Deportation Orders**  
**\$170,000 for 2 years**

Catholic Charities Legal Services Archdiocese of Miami Inc. (CLS) was established in 1994 at Notre Dame D'Haiti Church to provide legal services and immigration representation to refugees and immigrants from Haiti. The project rapidly expanded beyond the Haitian community because of the vast immigrant population in South Florida.

The goal of this program is for disabled immigrants to gain access to legal work status and to therefore qualify for social security benefits. CLS will work with at least 600 disabled immigrants with deportation orders to receive their work authorizations. At least 98% of those clients will then receive social security benefits and Medicaid plus stipends. Partner sites are funded to assist the client with navigation services but no one is currently being funded to assist clients with legal assistance. This grant would fund the legal assistance necessary for disabled immigrants to remain in the US, gain access to medical care and to have the necessary support they need to remain in care and housed.

**Epilepsy Foundation of Florida Inc., Miami, FL**  
**Health Literacy Matters**  
**\$60,000 for 1 year**

For the past four years Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) has received a U.S. Health and Human Services award to find, inform and help uninsured Floridians enroll for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, persons with pre-existing conditions, such as epilepsy, were often excluded from obtaining health insurance coverage. The EFOF Navigation Program serves all persons throughout Florida - not just those with epilepsy. In keeping with the agency's tradition of serving those most in need, the target populations in Miami have been those with disabilities/special needs, including HIV-AIDs patients; immigrants; non-English speakers; migrant farm workers and ex-prisoners in re-entry programs.

The majority of Affordable Care Act implementation efforts initially focused on getting individuals enrolled in health insurance coverage. Yet consumers struggle with low health literacy/low health insurance literacy. Organizations like EFOF have adjusted their efforts to increase consumers' ability to effectively use their insurance. Over a 12-month period, the number of people served through the funded Coverage to Care workshops is a minimum of 600. EFOF will also produce 500 C2C step-by-step manuals in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. The dispersion of the manuals brings the number of

individuals educated about accessing medical care through the utilization of their health insurance to 1100 consumers. The goal is to educate consumers on their healthcare options and how to access those options, by empowering clients with this knowledge and therefore breaking down barriers to health.

**Good News Care Center (Fiscal Agent: Miami Baptist Association Inc., Miami, FL**

**Coming Home: Medical Homes & Health Access**

**\$149,750 for 2 years**

The Good News Care Center (GNCC) provides free primary medical care, screening and diagnostic services, immunizations, hospitalization and nutrition education and food assistance to the uninsured, poor, homeless, migrant and undocumented populations of South Miami-Dade County. Good News Care Center serves an average of 900 or more patient visits per month. They provide from six to ten million dollars in annual value of uncompensated care to persons who have no form of health insurance and with household incomes at 200% of the federal poverty indicator or below.

The GNCC Coming Home: Medical Homes Health Care Access Project will serve uninsured, low-income adults who have no access to medical care by enrolling up to 120 new patients for service and providing at least 750 free patient visits per month. Recruitment into the project will come from existing referral networks and ER Diversion programs, health fairs and publicity through large employers of migrant farm workers and other migrant advocacy and service groups. They offer both a medical home for low income families and chronic disease management for their patients. Not only does this approach keep patients healthy and out of the ER but it teaches them how to lead a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families.

**WeCount Inc., Homestead, FL**

**General Operating Support**

**\$148,000 for 2 years**

We Count began in 2002 as a program of We Care of South Dade, dedicated to engaging low-income residents in Deep South Dade in community issues. In 2006, We Count Inc became an independent, individual member-based organization focused on the issues impacting the lives of low-income immigrants. We Count has developed a multifaceted approach to its work, including services, education and cultural promotion, and social change campaigns. Their services address urgent needs, mostly related to immigration and workplace matters. Educational programming provides members with the tools they need to improve themselves and be better advocates for themselves, their families and communities. Services include evening classes in ESOL, Literacy in Spanish and Computer Literacy; workshops in immigrant and worker rights, occupational safety and health, leadership development, and other topics relevant to people's health and well-being. Social justice campaigns are a core component of We Count's work. Through these campaigns they have not only won changes, but built community members' consciousness about their situation, their relationship with others in the community and to social structures and systems. Operating support will help the organization run daily operations and look for other sources to help with financial stability.

## **Palm Beach**

**Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc., Palm Beach Gardens, FL**

**Respite Services**

**\$75,000 for 2 years**

Catholic Charities' Interfaith Health & Wellness Program (IHW) has addressed community health needs since 2008 through its Faith Community Nursing outreach. During FY16, the Interfaith Health & Wellness Nurses helped to preserve the dignity and quality of life for more than 2,000 homebound seniors and their caregivers in Palm Beach County. In collaboration with the Visiting Nursing Association's Medical Mobile Unit, Catholic Charities' nurses reached out to more than 600 homeless individuals and families. IHW is currently expanding its community services by adding quality, accessible, and planned in-home Respite Services for caregivers/families in order to strengthen and stabilize families, and to enhance child and adult safety.

This project is created to fill the need to relieve caregivers who support those who are disabled, homebound, or elderly in St. Lucie and Martin Counties. Caregivers who receive respite services are more likely to stay healthy and continue to care for their homebound relative or friend. Through the program Registered Nurses will help by:

- 1) relieving caregivers for at least 1 – 2 hours;
- 2) identifying and supporting care recipients' needs and wellness;
- 3) assisting families in overcoming barriers to physical care and mental health well-being; and
- 4) expanding community health services to additional underserved neighborhoods.

**Glades Initiative Inc., Belle Glade, FL**

**Community Resource Educator - Connecting the Glades**

**\$100,000 for 2 years**

The Glades Initiative Inc. provides health and human services through collaboration, communication, and connection. In connecting clients to services, the Community Resource Educators assist over 3,000 low-income residents to navigate the application process for SNAP, Medicaid and other healthcare programs. The Glades Initiative's Community Resource Educators address the need for increased access to health care by working directly with Glades residents, many of whom are uninsured, low income, and have limited English proficiency. Through educating residents about existing services and assisting them in accessing Medicaid, SNAP (Food Stamps), Health Care District, KidCare, healthcare and other vital services the organization reduces barriers to health for clients who struggle with language, literacy, and access to computers. Evidence shows that community health workers or resource educators improve access to health care, especially for minority women and low-income individuals. By reaching out to these populations within the community, The Glades Initiative's Community Resource Educators improve access to care for individuals that may not otherwise receive care.

**Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County Inc., West Palm Beach, FL**

**Coverage to Care Legal Initiative**

**\$186,000 for 2 years**

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County Inc. is a private, non-profit law firm dedicated to ensuring equal access to the justice system for the low-income, disadvantaged and traditionally underserved

residents of Palm Beach County. Legal Aid provides services to over 2,000 individuals through outreach and education programming such as foreclosure defense clinics, immigration outreach seminars, fair housing rights presentations, and elder abuse and exploitation prevention workshops. Legal Aid offers high quality legal services, free of charge, to meet the legal needs of disadvantaged and underserved residents, and has a holistic, interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach.

Legal Aid's Coverage to Care Legal Initiative (CCLI) increases the ability of eligible uninsured and underinsured individuals to access appropriate health care coverage and receive health care services specific to their individual needs. By providing high quality legal advice, representation and education, CCLI staff connect individuals with resources that improve their overall health status, removing barriers to healthcare, increasing access to health care coverage and services, and effecting health and insurance reform through systemic advocacy efforts. The legal team advocates at the court level for clients to gain access to care, prescriptions and treatment for medical issues. Often, when the team wins a victory for one patient it means that the system as a whole changes and everyone in similar situations benefits; by setting legal precedent with one client they can help many fighting the same condition. This grant will expand the Coverage to Care Legal Initiative to Martin and St. Lucie Counties.

**My Clinic Inc., Jupiter, FL**  
**General Operating Support**  
**\$150,000 for 2 years**

MyClinic Inc. is an independent, not for profit, free clinic that provides Primary Medical Care, Specialty Care and Referrals for Urgent Dental Care to low income, uninsured residents of Palm Beach County and southern Martin County. All medical and dental services are provided by volunteer health providers. MyClinic initiated services in January 2014 in a temporary modular building which they quickly outgrew and purchased a 5000 square foot medical office building located just a few blocks east of their original location. The new building, complete with sheltered bus stop, is within walking distance of the majority of their clients and is close to El Sol, Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center. MyClinic has also been working with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County (HCD) and others to identify additional unmet health needs in the community. They are leasing space within the new facility to the C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics, operated by HCD. Both entities will provide services to their patients at this location. This unique model will broaden the healthcare safety net for those in need in northern Palm Beach County. This grant will support general operating expenses to help sustain their increasing operations while they focus fundraising efforts on paying the debt of their new facility.

**Tampa Bay**

**Coptic Orthodox Charities, Inc., Oldsmar, FL**  
**Healthcare Services for the Disadvantaged**  
**\$150,000 for 2 years**

Coptic Orthodox Charities, Inc. (COC) is a 501(c)(3) grassroots organization founded in 2001. They are a resettlement agency that focuses on helping survivors of torture, refugees, asylees, and abused spouses of US citizens, new Americans, and human trafficking victims to achieve self-sufficiency. The dedicated staff members are committed to fostering a sense of solidarity and acceptance among clients. All staff members are bilingual and either speak Spanish or Arabic; the majority of staff were once refugees themselves. They have resettled 1600 refugees in the last five years.

COC provides newly arriving refugees with the opportunity to achieve their full potential in the United States. Upon notification of a family's arrival, case managers work to locate safe and secure housing, clothing and culturally appropriate food as needed. Case managers continue to work diligently to arrange necessary transportation, ensure health assessments and address specific health challenges of refugees. In partnership with the refugee family, the case manager works to develop an individualized case plan with specific goals including health education, employability goals, coordination with medical assistance, initial medical screenings for each family member including immunizations required to enroll in Medicaid. Medications are filled and one-on-one education is provided by the case manager with coaching about the importance of medication management and health benefits of compliance.

**Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST), St. Petersburg, FL**  
**Advocacy for Housing and Healthcare Needs**  
**\$200,000 for 2 years**

FAST was created in 2005 by local clergy in order to provide a vehicle through which diverse religious congregations in Pinellas County could work together to bring about systemic changes. Clergy felt that their congregations were being called to "do justice" (Micah 6:8) and address the root causes of poverty and injustice in their community. They realized that one congregation on its own didn't have the power to change systems but that many congregations working together could use the power of their numbers to bring about systemic changes that help the disadvantaged in Pinellas. Currently there are 38 member congregations of FAST, representing diverse religious communities.

Community Organizers will help train and lead community members in advocacy efforts for this multi stage campaign. First, the members of FAST will advocate that voters recognize the importance of affordable housing. Then they will advocate to County Commissioners that they prioritize affordable housing and healthcare in decision making. Finally they maintain their advocacy efforts until assured that funding is being used as promised. More community organizers will be designated to the project at the beginning and through the initial phases. Once the maintenance phase is reached only one organizer will be needed.

**REACH UP Inc., Tampa, FL**  
**Improving the Health Status of Men**  
**\$177,000 for 2 years**

The mission of Reach Up is to advocate for and mobilize resources to help communities achieve equality in healthcare and positive health for families. Reach Up 's community work is based on constant assessment of community health problems, evidenced-based response strategies and practices, and promoting personal and social responsibility for health by utilizing the Life Course Model and Social Determinants of Health Perspective.

The Improving the Health Status of Men expansion project is designed to support fathers in poor and under-resourced communities in their roles as major influences in their children's lives. It will consist of case management using the Family Resource Support Plan for each father served. The 24/7 Dad® curriculum is a key component of the project and was developed by the National Fatherhood Initiative to equip fathers with the self-awareness, compassion, and sense of responsibility that every good parent needs. The philosophy behind the program supports the growth and development of fathers and children as caring and compassionate people who treat themselves, their families and their communities with respect and dignity.