

## Foundation funding to support Advocacy

**GMA Foundations** provides comprehensive grantmaking, management and consulting services to private foundations and individual donors. Our clients fund advocacy activities as part of their strategies for change. These recent examples point to the impact of their grantees' work.

### Civil Rights

**Boston Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Youth** and the Massachusetts Transgender Advocacy Coalition were the lead supporters of the Transgender Equal Rights law, which will give transgender people equal protections when seeking employment, housing, credit, and education.

### Community Development

**Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations** led a coalition successfully advocating for the *Community Development Partnership Act*. The law will increase funding for re-building neighborhoods and towns and provide greater economic opportunity for families and individuals across the state.

### Criminal Justice

**Boston Workers Alliance** and **Neighbor to Neighbor** lead in a coalition to ensure that the 2012 Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) reform law is being implemented effectively.

### Education

**Massachusetts Charter Public School Association and New Schools Venture Fund** lead a campaign to raise the cap on charter schools in Massachusetts and to release vacant public school buildings for use by charter schools. Since the campaign began, 11 new charter schools have opened or been approved for Boston, and two vacant Boston Public School buildings are being leased by charter schools.

### Electoral Politics

**MassVOTE** worked with Oiste, the Chinese Progressive Association, and other organizations in a campaign to help communities advocate for more logical political boundaries. The number of State House Districts where people of color make up the majority doubled from 10 to 20. The number of similar State Senate districts increased from two to three.

Access Strategies Fund led the **Massachusetts Census Equity Fund**, a collaborative to increase participation state-wide in the 2010 Census and ensure a transparent, fair and non-discriminatory redistricting process. Funders provided grants to nonprofits for census outreach.

## Environment

**Amazon Watch** assisted with the court case to require oil company, Chevron to clean up environmental contamination in Ecuador. Chevron appealed, however the United States Supreme Court denied its bid to block the \$18.2 billion judgment.

East Boston's **Chelsea Creek Action Group's** youth organizers worked with the Charles River Watershed Association on the redesign of Central Square, successfully advocating to City planners to incorporate green storm water design elements and infrastructure to support active transportation as a model of Boston's new "Complete Streets" policy.

## Health Care

**Community Catalyst** is providing state-level advocacy in New England to support and expand health coverage for children, including the funding of a mini-grant pool for grassroots consumer advocacy efforts.

**Greater Boston Interfaith Organization** and others formed a Prevention Trust Coalition to address health care cost containment. The Governor of Massachusetts signed into law cost containment legislation that set aside \$60 million over a period of four years for a Public Health Trust. The bill could become a model for other states.

**Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Association's** advocacy informed the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision ordering the reinstatement of 34,700 "aliens with special status" (AWSS) into the state's Commonwealth Care insurance program.

## Public Health

Youth organizers from **Hyde Square Task Force** collaborated with Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion to reduce the accessibility of flavored tobacco products to youth. Boston's Board of Health passed a new regulation restricting the sale of electronic cigarettes and also prohibiting the sale of loose cigarillos, requiring them to be sold minimally in a package of five.

## Worker Rights

**MASSCOSH** led advocacy efforts of the REAL Campaign to Reform Employment Agency Law. The law will help protect temporary workers by requiring temp agencies to be more transparent. Staffing agencies are prohibited from charging registration and criminal record check fees, as well as any other fee that would reduce a worker's pay below the minimum wage.

## Workforce Development

**SkillWorks: Partners for a Productive Workforce** is a funder collaborative that has invested nearly \$25 million in innovative workforce development strategies. SkillWorks employs a three-pronged strategy: industry sector workforce partnerships, capacity building for workforce development providers, and policy advocacy to increase funding and effectiveness of the workforce development system.