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## **National Consumer Law Center Receives Grant from The Boston Foundation to Help Poor Families Maintain Heat and Power**

**(BOSTON, Mass.)** Low-income residents in Massachusetts facing utility shut offs will continue to receive help from the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC), thanks to a \$20,000 grant from The Boston Foundation.

The NCLC received the grant—part of The Boston Foundation’s Food and Fuel Initiative—to fund Project Stay Connected, the nonprofit legal advocacy organization’s program to help low-income residents in Massachusetts maintain essential utility services. To date, NCLC has trained thousands of Massachusetts counselors and social service providers in the basic rights of utility customers as well as partnered with Legal Services organizations across the state to provide expert legal advice and case assistance for low-income clients facing electric, gas, water, and telephone terminations.

NCLC attorney Charlie Harak, director of *Project Stay Connected*, praised The Boston Foundation for its long-term support of the Project. “We are very grateful for The Boston Foundation’s recognition that every family in Massachusetts needs and deserves to have access to essential utility services. The Boston Foundation’s generous support has made it possible for thousands of families to keep their homes warm in the winter and to keep the lights on year round.”

The Boston Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation. It’s Food and Fuel fund supports essential organizations that provide immediate and direct help to local residents in distress. It also supports systemic efforts to catalyze change that will benefit vulnerable households for the long term.

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The National Consumer Law Center<sup>®</sup> (NCLC<sup>®</sup>) is a non-profit organization specializing in consumer issues on behalf of low-income and other vulnerable people. Since 1969, NCLC has worked with legal services and nonprofit organizations as well as government and private attorneys across the United States, to create sound public policy for low-income and elderly individuals on consumer issues.