

Massachusetts Public Health Association Action for a Healthy Massachusetts 2015 Annual Report

Dear Friend,

Thanks to your commitment and dedication, 2015 was a year of great successes for MPHA. Kicking off the year, we were selected as a Social Innovator with the Social Innovation Forum. This opportunity allowed us to better advance our strategic plan and create an engaging prospectus for our work.

We also had major policy victories this year, building more support behind healthy food access and affordability, and successfully advocating for dedicated funding for the Complete Streets Certification Program. We worked in coalition on issues of housing, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, and advancement of Community Health Workers. And we expanded our field program by bringing on another field organizer. This has allowed us to engage even more partners on the ground in low-income communities and communities of color to fight health inequity and build momentum for change.

In the coming year, I urge you to join us in our campaigns. Organize your neighbors and colleagues to get involved in upcoming policy fights. Come with us to the State House! Volunteer at the office. This is your organization. I'm very happy to share this year's annual report with you. If something in it catches your eye or makes you want to get more involved, be in touch with me and we'll plug you in. You can email me at rgewirtz@mapublichealth.org.

Best wishes,



Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director

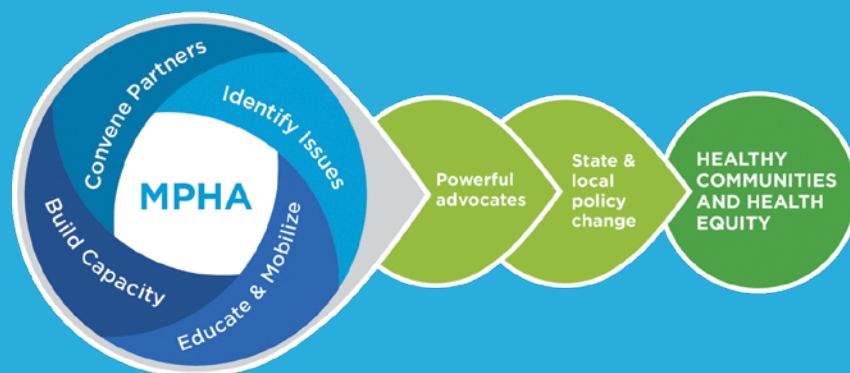


The **Massachusetts Public Health Association** (MPHA) is a private, non-profit 501c3, statewide membership organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, education, community organizing, and coalition-building. We are the catalyst for change, eliminating health inequities and creating healthy communities for all.

Our focus is on policies and programs that prevent illness, disease, and injury, particularly among those vulnerable to disparities in health status.

MPHA was founded in 1879 and is a leading affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

Our Approach



2015 In Action



Recognized as Social Innovator

MPHA was selected as a Social Innovator in 2015 with the Social Innovation Forum. As an Innovator, Executive Director Rebekah Gewirtz presented MPHA's work at the annual showcase. In addition, we held a social issues talk on the impact of racism on health outcomes with David R. Williams. MPHA also received a host of in-kind services including support writing our prospectus and creating metrics around our three year strategic goals. To see our prospectus go to: mapublichealth.org/about.

MPHA Builds Support for Healthy Food Access — a Driver for Health and Jobs

From rural Berkshire County to neighborhoods in Boston, healthy food access is a significant challenge for many due to low incomes, limited transportation options, and limited grocery stores. **That is why nearly 100 community-based organizations have joined the statewide, MPHA-led coalition to fund the Massachusetts Food Trust Program.** With MPHA's leadership, the coalition has succeeded in getting language added to the FY16 state budget supporting the MA Food Trust. Our goal this coming year is to secure \$5 million in state seed funding, to leverage federal and private dollars.



Three Years of Organizing Lead to \$12.5M in Funding to Advance Complete Streets

Students at Codman Academy in Dorchester were part of the successful push to fund and implement the Complete Streets Program. The students became active after one of them was seriously injured by a car outside their school. They banded together to study traffic safety and to compile recommendations for creating safer streets, which they presented at the State House during a May event co-hosted by MPHA and Partners HealthCare. Their advocacy — along with the organizing of hundreds of supporters across the state — led MassDOT to commit \$12.5 million to improve access and safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit riders. MPHA is proud to have convened advocates from across different sectors to advance this shared priority.



2015 In Action



MPHA Budget Advocacy Protects Essential Public Health

Heading into the fiscal year 2016 budget debate, the Commonwealth was facing an estimated \$2 billion budget deficit. Having witnessed core public health programs receive the first cuts in many past deficit situations, MPHA moved into action. MPHA was the voice for the critical activities upon which we all depend – food protection, communicable disease control, water quality testing, indoor air quality at schools, and other core services. As a result of our work and collaboration, overall funding for DPH community-based programs was maintained.

Expanding Field Program, Broadening Statewide Reach

With a second field staffer added to the MPHA team this year, our outreach capacity has nearly doubled. From the Berkshires to the Cape, we go to where our partners are to strengthen connections, understand local issues, and identify shared priorities. By providing timely policy updates and guiding strategic advocacy efforts, we help strengthen the voices of local leaders while also increasing our interconnectedness with partners across Massachusetts. MPHA believes local leaders – especially those in low-income communities and communities of color – are the key to advancing health equity.



Fighting Poverty

MPHA joined as an active member of the successful Healthy Families Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition, to fight for economic justice for working families struggling to make ends meet. Increasing the EITC has been proven to improve health outcomes.



Advancing Community Health Workers

MPHA is co-facilitating a statewide coalition to advance the community health worker (CHW) workforce. CHWs connect vulnerable populations to care and reduce costs. MPHA is working with allies to finalize the certification process for CHWs and to push for payment for CHW services.



Honoring Public Health Heroes

MPHA honored public health heroes at our Annual Spring Awards Breakfast. Awardees Renee Boynton-Jarrett, Max Fripp, Jose Rafael Rivera, and Benjamin Wood were recognized for their dedication to creating a healthier and more equitable Commonwealth.

Thank you to MPHA's major funders for making this work possible:

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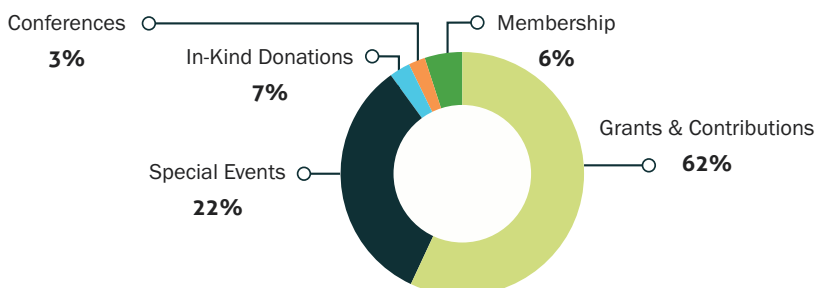
Kara Keenan, Assistant Director of Membership and Development

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Financial Snapshot

Revenue: \$701,369



Expenses: \$547,044

