The Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF) of Massachusetts is a first-in-the-nation effort to improve health outcomes by combining public health and health care strategies.

Established by the state legislature through Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, PWTF received $60 million over four years, through funding from an assessment of health insurers and large hospital systems. The Lynn Partnership, coordinated by the City of Lynn, received $5.3 million as one of nine partnerships across the Commonwealth.

THE NEED
Preventable and chronic health conditions continue to climb. Furthermore, health care inequities based on race, income, and geography are a persistent challenge. Lynn is home to some of Massachusetts’ most diverse, vulnerable, and high-risk individuals and families.

Prior to PWTF, no coordinated approach existed to address common health challenges and inequities affecting the community. PWTF leverages a network of health care providers, community-based organizations, residents, leaders, and existing initiatives to bring a comprehensive approach to the prevention and management of pediatric asthma, hypertension, falls in older adults, and tobacco use.

CLINICAL PARTNERS
- Lynn Community Health Center

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc.
- Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development
- Lynn Public Schools
- Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council

LYNN SNAPSHOT
90,000 residents; Health Equity: 52% of patients at the clinical sites are Hispanic/Latino; 1 in 5 lives below the Federal Poverty Level

- Pediatric Asthma: 15.6% of children were told they have asthma vs. 13.7% statewide.
- Hypertension: 31.6% of adults have been told they have hypertension vs. 28.8% statewide.
- Falls in Older Adults: 9.3% of residents over age 65 have experienced a fall with an injury in the last 12 months.
- Tobacco Use: 20.7% smoke regularly vs. 15.9% statewide.

“I have learned so many new things about asthma.”

Christian, age 11, of Lynn, MA, in response to his coordinated care from PWTF.

Learn more at www.mass.gov/pwtf
THE PARTNERSHIPS
PWTF supports a partnership that shares leadership among clinical, municipal, and community organizations. The coordinating partner (City of Lynn) is responsible for building, monitoring, and maintaining a robust infrastructure of working relationships that focuses on referral management, training, data collection and evaluation, and quality improvement.

THE LOCAL IMPACT
Since implementing the program, the Lynn Partnership made over 1,130 referrals from clinical sites to community organizations. PWTF is proving to be an essential component in the mission to improve health outcomes and combat health inequities in our communities.

1. US Census, American FactFinder. 2010 data. Prepared by MDPH.

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