

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 Worcester PWTF Partnership, coordinated by the City of Worcester through its Division of Public Health, received over \$5 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. Worcester 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, and falls in older adults.**

### CLINICAL PARTNERS

- Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center, Inc. - Worcester
- Family Health Center of Worcester, Inc.
- UMASS Memorial Medical Center

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Community Legal Aid, Inc.
- Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.
- Fallon Health
- MA Audubon Society / Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary
- St. Paul's Elder Outreach
- Worcester Child Development and Head Start Program
- Worcester Public Schools
- Worcester Division of Elder Affairs/Worcester Senior Center

### WORCESTER SNAPSHOT

182,596 (estimate) residents<sup>1</sup>;  
**Health Equity:** 43.8% of patients at the clinical sites are Hispanic/Latino<sup>2</sup>; 1 in 4 lives below the Federal Poverty Level<sup>3</sup>

**Pediatric Asthma:** 14.9% of children were told they have asthma vs. 13.7% statewide.<sup>4</sup>

**Hypertension:** 28.9% of adults have been told they have hypertension similar to the statewide average.<sup>4</sup>

**Falls in Older Adults:** 7.1% of adults over age 65 had a claim for a fall-related injury vs. 5.2% statewide.<sup>5</sup>

*"I want to be around to see my kids graduate from high school. This program (CDSMP) helped save my life."*



Juan Ventura, Chronic disease patient from EMK CHC Worcester.

## A COORDINATED APPROACH

The PWTF model implements evidence-based prevention approaches at a systemic level, which complements existing health care services and ongoing health care transformation efforts. PWTF focuses on extending care into the community through **clinical-community linkages**, while developing stronger evidence of effective prevention programming.



### CLINICAL

Identify high risk patients, treat them according to clinical guidelines, and refer them to prevention-based programming outside of the clinical setting.



### LINKAGE

Bridge services through warm hand-offs by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and electronic systems; build strong partnerships among clinical and community leaders.



### COMMUNITY

Evidence-based interventions at community-based and social service organizations, i.e., Chronic Disease Self-Management, Asthma Home Visiting, Tai Chi, etc.

## THE PARTNERSHIPS

PWTF supports a partnership that shares leadership among clinical, municipal, and community organizations.

**The coordinating partner (City of Worcester) 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 Worcester Partnership **made over 750 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.

Massachusetts  
Department of  
Public Health



**Learn more at** [www.mass.gov/pwtf](http://www.mass.gov/pwtf)

1. City of Worcester website <http://www.worcesterma.gov/quick-facts>
2. PWTF Clinical Data. 2013-2015 data. Prepared by MPDH.
3. US Census, American FactFinder. 2010 data. Prepared by MDPH.
4. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC and Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health. 2011-2014 data. Prepared by MDPH. Grantee SAE covers three years to stabilize the small sample numbers.
5. All Payer Claims Database, Center for Health Information and Analysis. 2012. Prepared by MDPH. This data does not include MassHealth or Medicare data as that data set was unavailable during the writing of this report.