

KEEPING MASSACHUSETTS HEALTHY & SAPHE



The Public Health Excellence (PHE) grant program, funded through line-item 4512-2022, provides cities and towns with the resources they need to hire staff and procure goods and services to serve not a single community but a whole region. This gives communities access to specialized staffing and resources that they likely could not support on their own, lightening the loads of locally focused staff. Additionally, this collaborative approach allows for more equitable and effective responses to public health crises like devastating weather events fueled by climate change, the emergency shelter crisis, the opioid epidemic, and infectious disease outbreaks.

Launched in

**APRIL
2021**

PHE grants help increase equity across the Commonwealth

by promoting & supporting the development of shared public health services that results in increased capacity & improvements to public health protections

As of November 2023:

322 municipalities are supported across 51 cross-jurisdictional partnerships

92% of municipalities are participating in the PHE grant program

PUBLIC HEALTH EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT



MONTACHUSETT PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK

- Conducted monthly flu, COVID, and Hepatitis A vaccination clinics at a local homeless shelter, serving as a vaccine records check for residents.
- Contracted with Cataldo for regular pediatric clinics for new resident school-aged children without established pediatricians or immediate access to vaccines, addressing a gap in local free clinic availability.



COOPERATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HEALTH DISTRICT

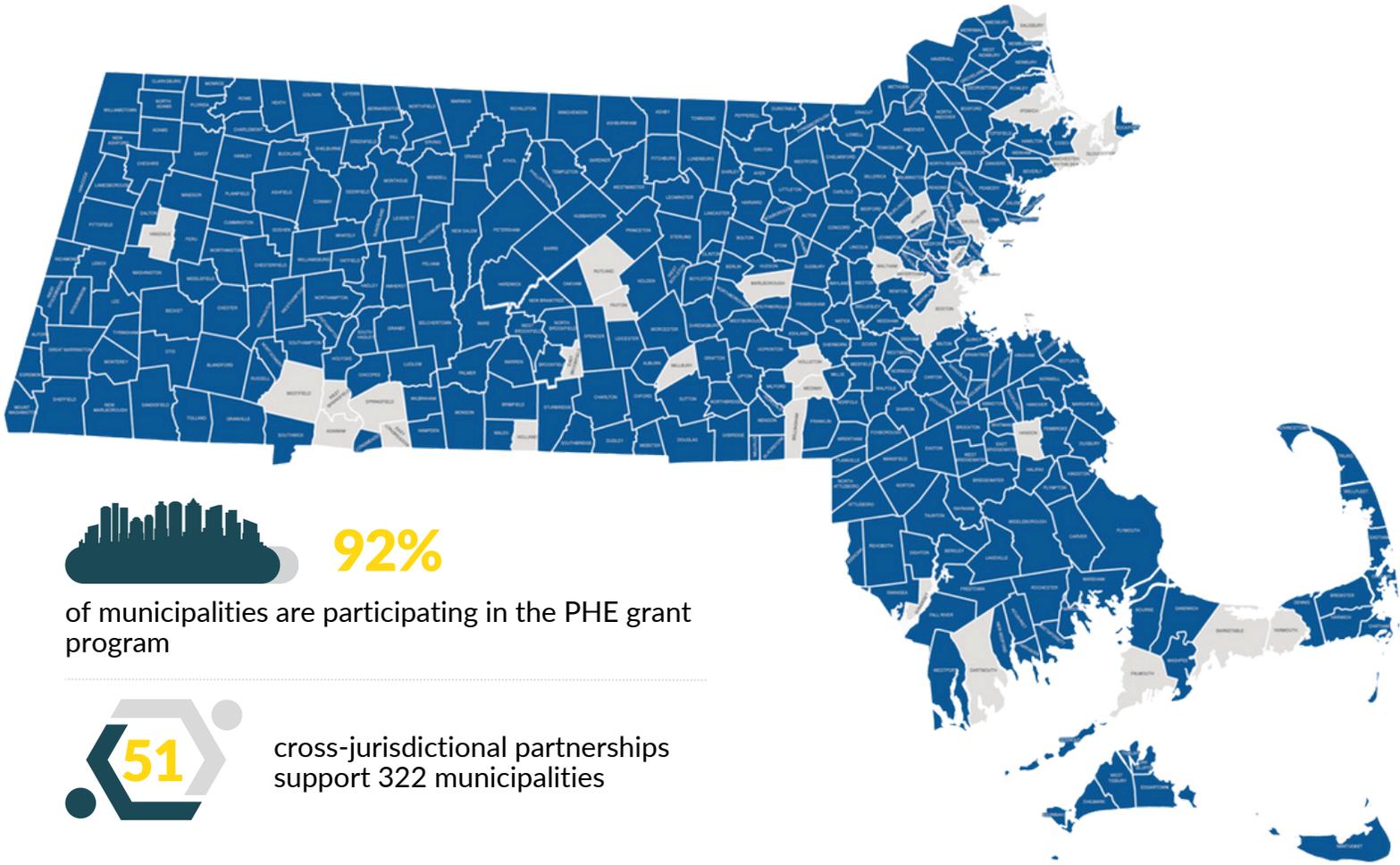
- Improved response to housing complaints across 12 rural communities, despite challenges like aging housing stock and limited sewer access.
- With a dedicated housing inspector and easy-to-use tablet-based software, the collaborative is ensuring fair code enforcement in small towns with limited resources.



INTER-ISLAND PUBLIC HEALTH EXCELLENCE COLLABORATIVE

- Recruited a public health biologist to lead the collaborative's tick-borne illness prevention program.
- Hired a multilingual health inspector to reach residents who speak languages other than English, offering culturally humble and linguistically diverse public education on tick-borne diseases, pesticide/herbicide exposure, and emergency preparedness protocols.

PUBLIC HEALTH EXCELLENCE COLLABORATIVES, AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



WHAT ARE GRANT GROUPS DOING WITH PHE FUNDS?

SHARED SERVICES



Public health nursing. Many PHE grant groups have been able to partner with local providers like libraries, senior centers, homeless shelters, etc., to expand access to public health nursing services like vaccinations, wellness programming, disease screenings, disease investigation, and more.



Shared inspectional services. Many groups have been able to share inspectional services so each city and town can meet its foundational public health needs, including inspections of housing, food establishments, swimming pools, and camps to gather data on risk trends in order to more effectively manage and deliver services both locally and statewide.



Substance use and overdose prevention. Several groups are using PHE grant funds to support prevention and harm reduction services, including hiring staff to oversee opiate settlement funds distribution, developing youth-focused substance use prevention materials, and hosting routine Narcan training.



Serving immigrant and non-English speaking communities. Several groups have used PHE funds to purchase translation services or devices in order to reach more residents who speak languages other than English. Groups have also used funds to stand up clinics to serve new migrants in their communities.