

Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition



Barre, Brookfield, Hardwick, Holden, Leicester, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham

Connecting Communities to Care and Resources

Public Health Excellence (PHE) funds have helped the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition meet residents where their needs were greatest, from putting food on the table to preventing overdose deaths and keeping families informed. By pairing direct assistance with education and outreach, the Coalition helps residents access food benefits, lifesaving harm-reduction supplies, and trusted public health information across the region.



DID YOU KNOW?



A 2025 study found that **42% of households in Worcester County struggled to afford enough food**, compared to 37% statewide. Not having enough money for food is called food insecurity, a challenge facing families in the region.

Source: The Cost of Hunger in Massachusetts 2025 Report, Greater Boston Food Bank

Bridging Residents to Food and Social Support

Behind every SNAP application is a family working to make ends meet, and the Coalition's Human Services Director was there to help, **guiding 41 residents through SNAP pre-screening and referrals to the Worcester County Action Council**. Beyond food access, the team fielded housing inquiries and connected residents to legal, transportation, and benefit-related resources, treating food insecurity as one piece of the larger puzzle that is community wellbeing. **Every referral and follow-up call is a step toward ensuring residents don't have to choose between paying rent or putting food on the table.**

Keeping Residents Informed and Engaged

Public health information only helps when it reaches people in a way they can use. The Coalition's Human Services Director developed educational materials on key public health topics to inform and protect the community. The Coalition also maintains an online resources page and publishes a quarterly newsletter, giving residents reliable ways to stay informed and engaged in their own health and wellbeing.

