

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 Boston Partnership, coordinated by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), received \$5.35 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. Boston's Roxbury and North Dorchester communities adjoin each other; they share many cultural and social assets, institutions and aspirations. They are also home to some of Massachusetts' most vulnerable, high-risk individuals and families.

Prior to PWTF, no coordinated approach existed to address common health challenges and inequities affecting these neighborhoods. **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

- Bowdoin Street Health Center
- Codman Square Health Center
- The Dimock Center
- DotHouse Health
- Harbor Health Services (Geiger Gibson & Neponset)
- Harvard Street Health Center
- Whittier Street Health Center

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Action for Boston Community Development/Head Start
- Boston Commission on Elderly Affairs
- Boston Medical Center/ Injury Prevention Center
- Boston Public Schools
- Boston Senior Home Care
- Central Boston Elder Services
- Ethos
- Health Resources in Action

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

### BOSTON SNAPSHOT

Covers Roxbury and North Dorchester; 140,000 residents;  
**Health Equity:** 42% Black and 23% Hispanic/Latino

**Pediatric Asthma:** Students with pediatric asthma in six of the eight elementary schools have an overall absentee rate 30% higher than their classmates without asthma within Boston.

**Hypertension:** 41% of hypertensive patients had blood pressure rates greater than 140/90.

**Falls in Older Adults:** Older adult fall death rates per 100,000 residents 65 years and older was 29.2 for North Dorchester and 27.2 for Roxbury.



Residents receive certificates for completing the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, taught by Ethos and the Elderly Commission.

## 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 (BPHC) 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 Boston Partnership **made over 660 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)