

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 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) allocated this funding to nine local grantee partnerships, which focus on four priority health conditions: **pediatric asthma, hypertension, tobacco use, and falls in older adults**.

## THE NEED

**Preventable health conditions continue to climb.** Furthermore, health care inequities based on race, income, and geography are a persistent challenge. Spending on chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and asthma – *many of which are preventable* – currently accounts for 86% of national health care expenditures.

## 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.

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

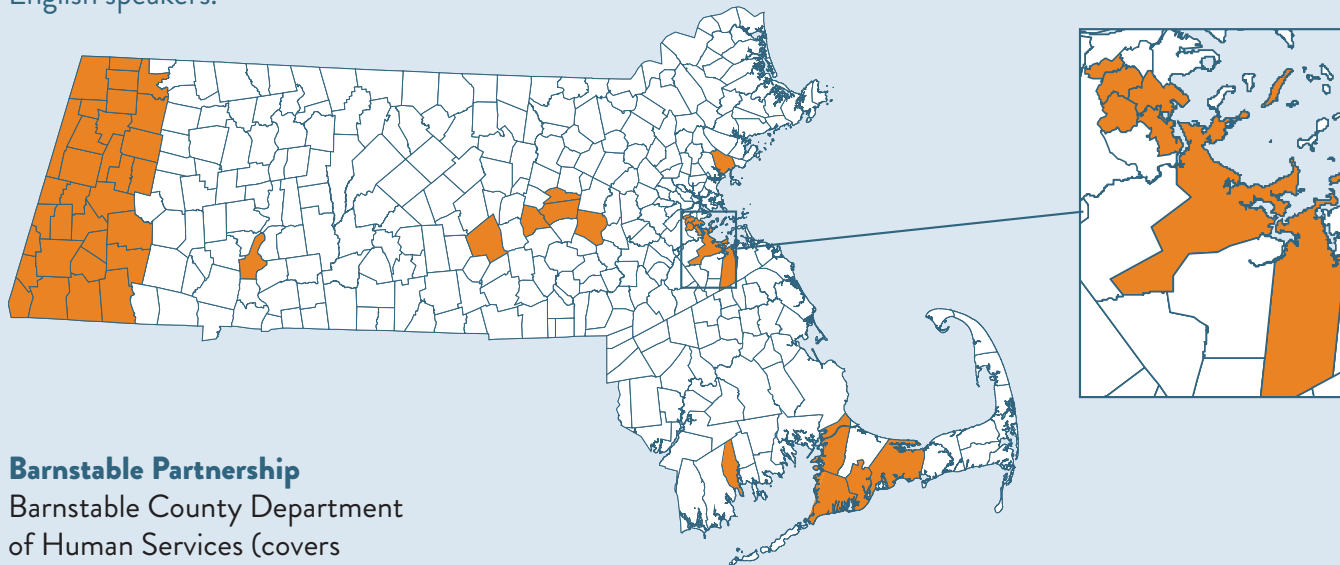
Massachusetts  
Department of  
Public Health



## THE PARTNERSHIPS

PWTF supports a partnership effort that shares **leadership from clinical, municipal, and community organizations**. Each partnership is led by a coordinating partner, which 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. DPH and nationally-renowned experts have provided significant guidance and technical assistance to enable each partnership to meet their goals.

PWTF covers approximately **15% of the Massachusetts' population**, reaching some of the most vulnerable, highest risk individuals and families, such as low-income communities of color, poor older adults, and non-English speakers.



### Barnstable Partnership

Barnstable County Department of Human Services (covers Barnstable, Mashpee, Falmouth, and Bourne)

### Berkshire Partnership

for Health, Berkshire Medical Center

### Boston Partnership

Boston Public Health Commission (covers Roxbury and North Dorchester)

### Healthy Holyoke Partnership

Holyoke Health Center

### Lynn Partnership

City of Lynn

### MetroWest Partnership

Town of Hudson (covers Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, and Northborough)

### Quincy Weymouth Wellness

Initiative, Manet Community Health Center

### Southeastern Health Initiative

for Transformation (SHIFT) Partnership, City of New Bedford Health Department

### Worcester Partnership

City of Worcester

## THE IMPACT

The model has laid essential groundwork to identify social and economic barriers to health by addressing the needs of the whole person. During the first year and a half of implementation, the **partnerships made over 8,800 referrals** from clinical sites to community organizations.

The impact of linking clinical and community care will be studied as PWTF rolls out. Preliminary outcomes will be analyzed by January 2017 in an independent evaluation report to the legislature. PWTF is proving to be an essential component in the mission to improve health outcomes and combat health inequities.

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