



— Massachusetts —  
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND  
HEALTHY AGING FUNDS

---

Media Contacts:

Nadine Sanchara, Communications and Operations Fellow Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC) | [nadines@macdc.org](mailto:nadines@macdc.org) | (617) 379-5921

Nineequa Blanding - Vice President, Health Resources in Action | [nblanding@hria.org](mailto:nblanding@hria.org) | (617) 292-5069

## **Six Massachusetts CDCs funded through the Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds**

*MACDC members are poised to address systemic barriers to health equity*

**Boston, MA [October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020]** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced the inaugural awards of the Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds (the Funds). As part of these awards, DPH, and its implementing partner, Health Resources in Action, Inc., will collaborate with six CDCs and 27 other organizations across Massachusetts and more than 35 of their community partners, including nonprofit community-based organizations, municipalities, and regional planning commissions. All these organizations, including six MACDC members, have committed to leading efforts to address the root causes of health inequities by disrupting systemic barriers to health, and tackling institutional and structural racism head-on. During the pandemic, the need to support such efforts is even more imperative.

**In total, \$14.7M in grants will support 32 lead organizations and 35 of their partner organizations implementing strategies, ultimately impacting 163 cities and towns across the state. Massachusetts CDCs receiving funding will impact populations in the Hilltowns, Lawrence, Franklin County, Essex County, Boston, and Ware.**

The goal of the funds is to work with community partners to increase awareness and address the impact of structural racism on population health, and to create long-term, meaningful changes in population health outcomes, including mental health and chronic disease.

MACDC is very excited that a number of our members will be benefiting from this important funding.

“CDCs, who have deep relationships in the communities across Massachusetts, are ideal organizations to partner with DPH in addressing health needs in their communities,” says Elana Brochin, Program Director for Health Equity at MACDC. “CDCs work to improve social determinants of health in low- and moderate-income communities through improving access to safe and affordable housing, employment and educational opportunities, transportation, and many other aspects of the built environment. Support from the

Community Health Fund will further strengthen the impact that our members have in the health space and the ongoing integration of health equity into the Community Development landscape.”

The Funds invest in initiatives in three core areas of focus including those:

- Working on **long-lasting, community-driven policy, systems, and environmental changes** that will make it easier to lead healthy lives and that will reduce health inequities such as racial patterns of segregation in communities and a lack of affordable housing production;
- Organizing and coordinating **Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP)** efforts that convene multi-sector partnerships to collectively set and address community health goals, and;
- Working to address **policies and systems that increase opportunities for healthy aging.**

Recognizing the complex ways in which systems impact health, the investments will support a wide range of activities across the Commonwealth. The CDCs supported through this fund include:

**Hilltown CDC:** Hilltown CDC is addressing barriers to safe walkability in the Hilltowns through policies, systems, and environmental change.

**Lawrence CommunityWorks (LCW):** LCW is addressing housing instability and barriers to healthy living for low-income, primarily Latinx residents of Lawrence.

**Franklin County CDC:** Franklin County CDC, along with several other regional organizations and businesses, is examining workplace culture in the region to identify ways in which it perpetuates bias, institutionalized racism, white dominant culture, and institutionalized barriers to health equity.

**Harborlight Community Partners (HCP):** HCP is creating transformative, systemic change, ultimately leading to affordable housing creation and more inclusive and equitable communities on the North Shore.

**Vietnamese American Initiative for Development, Inc. (VietAID):** VietAID is working to strengthen their existing older adult program to include more comprehensive services and to expand existing advocacy/organizing efforts.

**Town of Ware, in partnership with Quaboag Valley CDC (QV CDC):** The Town of Ware is implementing a multi-sector partnership comprised of individuals with lived experience, community agencies/service providers, and a cluster of municipalities to plan and conduct a CHIP process in the Quaboag Hills region of central and western Massachusetts.

“I am very excited to receive five years of DPH funds to support Healthy Aging in the rural Hilltowns,” says Dave Christopolis, the Executive Director of the Hilltown CDC. “Older residents in our communities are vital to our economy and culture. They are the historians and mentors and quite often hold positions in our local government. The least we can do is work with our seniors to find ways to make living in the Hilltowns more accessible, safe to walk and recreate and fun for all ages. Our work also aims to work with MA DOT to find regulatory fixes that will allow us to modify our infrastructure to accommodate safer walking, biking, and recreating.

[Learn more about all 32 awardees here.](#)

The Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds were created in January 2017 when DPH completed a landmark revision of its Determination of Need (DoN) regulation, which authorized the creation

of these Funds. DPH provides overall guidance to the Funds and Health Resources in Action, Inc. acts as a fiduciary and implementing partner. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) partners with DPH to support the Healthy Aging Fund.

More information about the Funds can be found at <https://mahealthfunds.org/>

###