



MACDC's Members - Addressing Community Health



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INTRODUCTION

In January 2016, MACDC sent its annual GOALS survey to 71 member organizations and requested data across a range of program areas, including community health. The purpose of the GOALS survey is to quantify and highlight the work CDCs do in their communities. For the first time, GOALS included a supplemental survey to capture how CDCs currently address community health. The survey results showed that CDCs not only work on health issues, but their work addresses a broad range of these issues including social determinants like food access and health education. Most of the CDCs who responded also seem to be making use of their Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) funding, as well as funding and partnerships with hospitals, health centers, health foundations and more to accomplish this work. Given the high proportion of CDCs who are working on health, MACDC now plans to conduct this survey annually to explore trends and help ensure that health issues continue to be a growing part of community development efforts in Massachusetts.

Key Findings:

- There is a growing movement towards health programming among CDCs and this largely includes social determinants¹ of health.
- Many CDCs are already working with hospitals and health centers to accomplish public health work.
- CDCs are using a variety of funding streams to support their health programming.
- MACDC members who use CITC funds are especially likely to have health programming.

HEALTH PROGRAMMING

69 MACDC members responded, including 60 CDCs. Of those 60 CDCs, 40 (66.7%) provided health-related programming in the past year. The CDCs that did provide health-related programming provided a variety of programs, taking a holistic approach to health. Many of these programs also address social determinants of health like education or access to healthy food and healthcare.

Programming	Number of CDCs
Food Access/Community Garden/Farming/Farmers Market	32
Exercise classes	24
Healthcare Education/Materials	20
Nutrition Education Classes	17
Violence Prevention Education/Program/Classes	13
Other	11
Physical/Sexual/Identity/Self-Esteem Education	10

¹ World Health Organization (2017) http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

MACDC asked the respondents to describe their “other” health-related programming that was not captured in the survey. For the most part, these programs focused on the health of the community as a whole, or on the healthcare system more directly. Here is what the CDCs described:

- Health Community Champions: Rethink your Drink demonstrations – Allston-Brighton CDC
- Health classes, including diabetes, oral health, smoking – Asian CDC
- Health Care Navigator in-house 1 X week – Community EDC of Southeastern MA
- We collaborated with the Healthy Hampshire program and conducted a community wide Sustainable Design Architectural Team (SDAT) process across 15 towns – Hilltown CDC
- We are also a founder and ongoing participant in the Western Mass Health Equity Network – Hilltown CDC
- On site Home health aides and nursing – Harborlight Community Partners
- Young adult (18-24) job readiness funded by Brigham & Women's Hospital – Jamaica Plain NDC
- Complete streets planning for Melnea Cass Blvd – Madison Park DC
- Mission Hill Road Race 5k – Mission Hill NHS
- Partnership with UMASS to measure family health and make improvements – Oak Hill CDC
- Deliver Saturday lunches to frail Hardwick seniors – Quaboag Valley CDC
- Youth Basketball League – Worcester Common Ground

31 CDCs are working on food access issues. This work includes providing information on and access to SNAP/WIC, Boston Bounty Bucks or other food matching programs, Fruit and Veggie Prescription, and other healthy food access programs. 27 CDCs do this and some of them with more than one program. A list of the specific organizations that provide information on each of these programs is in the Appendix. Here is the breakdown:

- SNAP/WIC: 16
- Boston Bounty Bucks or other food matching: 5
- Fruit and Veggie Prescription: 5
- Other program: 14

SNAP, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, "is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net, offering nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families, as well as economic benefits to communities."² WIC—Women, Infants, and Children—is also a nutrition assistance program: it provides Federal grants to states for supplemental foods, healthcare referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding women; and to infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk³. Through the Fruit and Veggie Prescription Program, doctors prescribe up to \$1 per person per day to members of a household that lacks income for or access to healthy foods⁴. Those prescriptions can then be redeemed for fresh produce at participating markets and grocery stores. Boston Bounty Bucks (BBB) increases access to healthy foods by providing EBT

² US Department of Agriculture: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

³ US Department of Agriculture: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/women-infants-and-children-wic>

⁴ Wholesome Wave: <http://www.wholesomewave.org/how-we-work/produce-prescriptions>

terminals to farmers' markets and helping them provide a dollar-for-dollar match for any SNAP purchases up to \$10⁵. This essentially allows SNAP recipients to double their purchasing power when they shop at markets participating in BBB.

FUNDING

There is an apparent association between CIRC funding and providing these programs and activities, at least among those CDCs who responded to the survey: In all, 51 of the CDCs who responded receive CIRC funding. 36 of the CDCs providing health programming also have CIRC funding. Thus, 70.6% of CIRC recipients we surveyed are working on health. Only six (14.3%) of the organizations that provide health programming do not have CIRC funding. 24 CDCs engage in food access activity and have CIRC funds, and four (4) that engage in these activities don't have the funds. It is worth noting that the survey did not specifically ask "Did your CDC use CIRC funds for health programming?" or any similar question. Given the apparent association in the data, this is a clarifying question that would be useful in future iterations of the survey.

38 CDCs had funding, grants, or contracts with a health agency or organization in the past year. Most (65.8%) of those CDCs received that funding from hospitals or health community centers (25 CDCs). Next were health-oriented foundations (17) and then government agencies (12).

Source	Number of Orgs
Hospital or Health Community Center	25
Health-Oriented Foundation	17
Government Agency (federal, state or municipal)	12
Non Health-oriented Foundation	7
Other	6

Six CDCs indicated using other funders. Four of them provided the names of those funders, which were: Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Grant via Boston Public Health Commission; Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust; and Working on Wellness (2 mentions).

The CDCs working on food access issues receive funding, grants or contracts mostly from health-oriented foundations, hospitals or health community centers, or government agencies. This is a promising sign of cross-sector collaboration on public health issues.

Source	Number of Orgs
Health-Oriented Foundation	16
Hospital or Health Community Center	15
Government Agency (federal, state or municipal)	11
Non Health-oriented Foundation	7
Other	3

⁵ The Food Project: <http://thefoodproject.org/bountybucks>

PARTNERS

Altogether, the organizations surveyed listed 105 health-related partners beyond funding. The full list of these partners is in the Appendix. They include:

- local hospitals/health centers (29),
- health and well-being organizations (23),
- local Ys or Boys & Girls Clubs (5),
- universities (5),
- local police departments (2),
- insurance providers (2),

With such a spread of partners, due both to the number of partners and the large geographic range of the CDCs, none stood out among a high number of respondents. The following organizations were listed more than once as partners to CDCs:

- Boston Public Health Commission (2)
- Cambridge Health Alliance (3)
- Cooking Matters (2)
- Lowell General Hospital (2)
- Lowell Community Health Center (2)
- Mass in Motion (3)
- Mayor's Health Task Force (2)
- North Suffolk Mental Health (2)
- Partners for a Healthier Community (2)
- Regional Environmental Council (2)
- YMCA (3)

The variety of organizations demonstrates that improved health is truly a community-wide effort for many of these CDCs. There were also eight (8) organizations that had no health-related partners who were not funders.

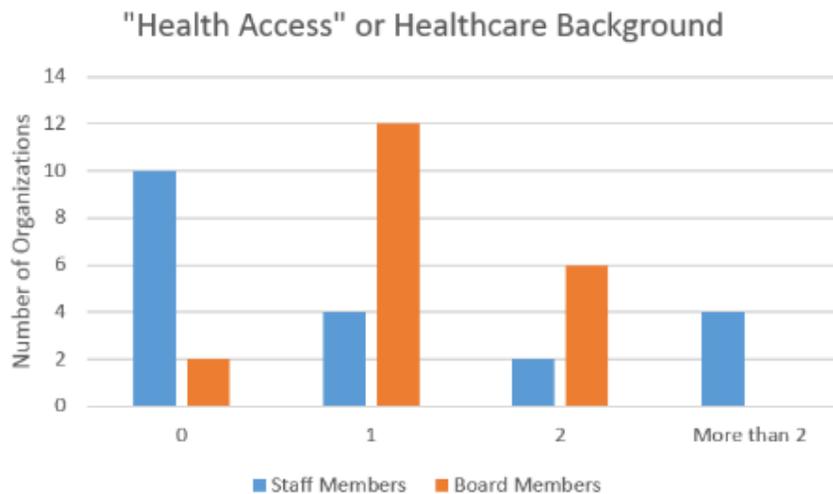
19 CDCs partnered with the 29 hospitals and health centers listed. Those partnerships are as follows:

- Asian CDC: Tufts Medical, Tufts Dental
- Coalition for a Better Acre: Lowell General Hospital, Lowell Community Health Center
- *Codman Square NDC: Codman Square Health Center, Vital Village/Boston Medical Center
- Community Teamwork, Inc.: Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell General Hospital
- East Boston CDC: East Boston NHC, North Suffolk Mental Health
- Fenway CDC: Boston Children's Hospital
- HAPHousing: Baystate Medical Center; Mercy Medical Center
- Hilltown CDC: Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Hilltown Community Health Centers

- Homeowners Rehab: Cambridge Health Alliance
- Inquilinos Boricuas En Acción: South End Community Health Center, Cathedral Cares, Early Commission Dental Clinic
- Just a Start: Cambridge Health Alliance, Windsor Dental
- Lawrence CommunityWorks: Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- Madison Park DC: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Whittier Street Health Center
- Main South CDC: Edward Kennedy Community Health Center, Family Health Center of Worcester
- Mission Hill NHS: New England Baptist Hospital
- North Shore CDC: North Shore Community Health, Inc.
- Oak Hill CDC: UMASS Medical
- The Neighborhood Developers: Massachusetts General Hospital/MGH Health Center, North Suffolk Mental Health, Cambridge Health Alliance
- Viet-AID: DotHouse Health/Dorchester House, Harbor Health

BOARD AND STAFF COMPOSITION

20 of the CDCs had staff or board members with a “health access” or healthcare background in the past year. Some of the CDCs only had staff members with this background, some only had board members, and most had a combination of the two. The full breakdown, including the names of the CDCs, is included in the Appendix. In the future, perhaps this is an area where CDCs can expand their expertise so that they can more effectively continue and expand the health work that they are doing.



Appendix

In the past year, did your organization provide any health-related programming?

Allston Brighton CDC, Asian CDC, Brookline Improvement Coalition, Community Development Partnership, Coalition for a Better Acre, Codman Square NDC, Community EDC of Southeastern MA, Community Teamwork, Inc., Dorchester Bay EDC, Domus, Inc., Downtown Taunton Foundation, Dudley Neighbors, Inc., Fenway CDC, Franklin County CDC, Groundwork Lawrence, HAPHousing, Harborlight Community Partners, Hilltown CDC, Homeowners Rehab, Housing Assistance Corp., Housing Corporation of Arlington, Inquilinos Boricuas En Acción, Jamaica Plain NDC, Just a Start, Lena Park CDC, Madison Park DC, Main South CDC, Mission Hill NHS, NeighborWorks Southern Mass, NewVue Communities, NOAH, Nuestra Comunidad DC, OneHolyoke CDC, Quaboag Valley CDC, Quincy-Geneva New Vision CDC, South Middlesex Opportunity Corp., The Neighborhood Developers, Urban Edge, Viet-AID, Worcester Common Ground (40 CDCs)

(Checked box) Food access, community gardens, farming or farmers market related activities

Coalition for a Better Acre, Codman Square NDC, Community Development Partnership, Community EDC of Southeastern MA, Community Teamwork, Inc., Domus, Inc., Dorchester Bay EDC, Downtown Taunton Foundation, Dudley Neighbors, Inc., Fenway CDC, Franklin County CDC, Groundwork Lawrence, HAPHousing, Harborlight Community Partners, Homeowners Rehab, Housing Assistance Corp., Housing Corporation of Arlington, Inquilinos Boricuas En Acción, Jamaica Plain NDC, Madison Park DC, Main South CDC, Mission Hill NHS, Quincy-Geneva New Vision CDC, NewVue Communities, NOAH, OneHolyoke CDC, Quaboag Valley CDC, South Middlesex Opportunity Corp., The Neighborhood Developers, Urban Edge, Worcester Common Ground (31 CDCs)

Non-CDC: Home City Housing

Through these food access activities, did you provide info on or access to: *SNAP/WIC* (16)

Community Development Partnership; Coalition for a Better Acre; Community Teamwork, Inc.; Domus, Inc.; Dudley Neighbors, Inc.; Downtown Taunton Foundation; Fenway CDC; Groundwork Lawrence; Housing Assistance Corp.; Harborlight Community Partners; Main South CDC; NOAH; South Middlesex Opportunity Corp.; The Neighborhood Developers; Urban Edge; Worcester Common Ground

***Boston Bounty Bucks or other food matching programs* (5)**

Coalition for a Better Acre; Codman Square NDC; Dudley Neighbors, Inc.; Quincy-Geneva New Vision CDC; Urban Edge

***Fresh Fruit and Veggie Prescription Program* (6)**

Downtown Taunton Foundation; Fenway CDC; Groundwork Lawrence; Harborlight Community Partners; Homeowners Rehab; Inquilinos Boricuas En Acción

Another healthy food access program (14)

Community Teamwork, Inc.; Dorchester Bay EDC; Domus, Inc.; Franklin County CDC; Fenway CDC; HAPHousing; Housing Corporation of Arlington; Home City Housing; Madison Park DC; OneHolyoke CDC; Quaboag Valley CDC; South Middlesex Opportunity Corp.; Urban Edge; Worcester Common Ground

Examples given for “Another Healthy Food Access Program”

- Lowell Farmers’ Market – Community Teamwork, Inc.
- Fair Foods provides bags of fresh fruits and vegetables for \$2 a bag distributed from our community centers. – Dorchester Bay EDC
- Food Pantry and the Soup Kitchen – Domus, Inc.
- MA Food Trust, MA Farm to School – Franklin County CDC
- Fair Foods program – Fenway CDC
- Partnership with community garden program and sponsor a community garden – HAPHousing
- Arlington Food Pantry in conjunction with Food Link – Housing Corporation of Arlington
- Food Truck delivers fresh produce every two weeks – Home City Housing
- Cooking Matters: organized nutrition classes, cooking demonstrations, and grocery store tours to inform residents about the social determinants of health, and increase access to healthy foods. – Madison Park DC
- We host the Food bank of Western Mass every other Friday, with staff, volunteers and a location to distribute free vegetables, dairy & household staples. About 150 residents participate at each session. – OneHolyoke CDC
- pick up and deliver fresh produce from food bank to Hardwick seniors – Quaboag Valley CDC
- monthly community meals – South Middlesex Opportunity Corp.
- the Fresh Truck visit to a community event celebrating the future Rec Center – Urban Edge
- Mobile Markets through the Regional Environmental Council; We also worked with Dismas House and provided weekly farm shares to our residents. – Worcester Common Ground

In the past year, did your organization have any funding, grants, or contracts with a health agency or organization?

Hospital or Health Community Center (25)

Asian CDC; Community Development Partnership; Community Teamwork, Inc.; Hilltown CDC; Nuestra Comunidad DC; Downtown Taunton Foundation; East Boston CDC; Fenway CDC; Groundwork Lawrence; HAPHousing; Housing Corporation of Arlington; Homeowners Rehab; Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción; Jamaica Plain NDC; Just a Start; Lawrence Community Works;

Madison Park DC; Oak Hill CDC; Quaboag Valley CDC; Revitalize CDC; South Middlesex Opportunity Corp.; The Neighborhood Developers; Urban Edge; Viet-AID; WATCH

Health-Oriented Foundation (17)

Coalition for a Better Acre, Community EDC of Southeastern MA, Codman Square NDC, Franklin County CDC, Groundwork Lawrence, Housing Assistance Corp., HAPHousing, Housing Corporation of Arlington, Home City Housing, Homeowners Rehab, Lawrence Community Works, Madison Park DC, NewVue Communities, South Middlesex Opportunity Corp., The Neighborhood Developers, Urban Edge, Worcester Common Ground

Government Agency (federal, state or municipal) (12)

Community Teamwork, Inc.; Codman Square NDC; Hilltown CDC; Dorchester Bay EDC; Franklin County CDC; Fenway CDC; Groundwork Lawrence; Housing Assistance Corp.; Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción; Madison Park DC; South Middlesex Opportunity Corp.; The Neighborhood Developers

Non Health-oriented Foundation (7)

Coalition for a Better Acre, Fenway CDC, Groundwork Lawrence, Housing Assistance Corp., Madison Park DC, South Middlesex Opportunity Corp., The Neighborhood Developers

Other (6)

Allston Brighton CDC, Harborlight Community Partners, Just a Start, Mission Hill NHS, Quaboag Valley CDC, Worcester Community Housing Resources

Beyond funding, please list any partner organizations for your health-related programming:

A total of 105 different organizations are partnering with CDCs to promote community health:

- All Dorchester Sports League
- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- American Diabetes Association
- Ascentria Care
- Baraka Wellness
- Baystate Health
- Baystate Medical Center
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
- Boston Alliance for Community Health
- Boston Children’s Hospital
- Boston Public Health Commission (2)
- Bowdoin Bike
- Boys & Girls Club of Worcester

- Cambridge Health Alliance (3)
- Cape Cod Healthcare
- Cathedral Cares
- Center for Community Health Education Research and Service
- CHNA 17
- Chelsea Collaborative
- Chelsea Police Department
- City of Chelsea
- City of Fitchburg
- City of Springfield Department of Health & Human Services
- Cleveland Community Center
- Codman Square Health Center
- Collaborative for Educational Services
- Community Action Programs Inter City
- Cooking Matters (2)
- Cooley Dickenson Hospital
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Dorchester Community Food Cooperative
- DotHouse Health/Dorchester House
- Early Commission Dental Clinic
- East Boston NHC
- Edward Kennedy Community Health Center
- Element Care
- Fairmount Greenway
- Family Health Center of Worcester
- Fitchburg State University
- Food Bank of Western Mass
- Framingham State University
- Gardening the Community
- Girl Trek
- Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- Growing Places
- Harbor Health
- Healthy Streets
- Highland Valley Elder Services
- Hilltown Community Health Centers
- Kind Yoga
- Lahey Health
- LEGIT Yoga
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation

- Lovin Spoonfuls
- Lowell General Hospital (2)
- Lowell Community Health Center (2)
- Martha's Vineyard Community Services
- Mass in Motion (3)
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
- Massachusetts Farm to School
- Massachusetts Food Policy Council
- Massachusetts General Hospital/MGH Health Center
- Mass Health
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
- Mayor's Health Task Force (2)
- Mercy Medical Center
- Mill City Grows
- Montachusett Opportunity Council
- Mothers Out Front
- New England Baptist Hospital
- North Shore Community Health, Inc.
- North Shore Elder Services
- North Suffolk Mental Health (2)
- Osco Drug
- Partners for a Healthier Community (2)
- Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition
- Planned Parenthood
- Regional Environmental Council (2)
- ROCA
- Roxbury in Motion
- Senior Care
- South End Community Health Center
- Springfield Food Policy Council
- Step Lightly
- Strength INC
- Talbot Norfolk Triangle Neighbors United (TNT)
- The Family Van
- The Food Project
- The Fresh Truck
- Tropical Foods
- Tufts Medical

- Tufts Dental
- UMASS
- UMASS Medical
- Urban Farm Institute
- Vital Village/Boston Medical Center
- Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Whittier Street Health Center
- Windsor Dental
- Worcester's Farmers Market
- Worcester Police Department
- YMCA (Germantown & 2 unnamed)
- YWCA

29 of these are hospitals or health centers: Baystate Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance (3), Cathedral Cares, Codman Square Health Center, Cooley Dickenson Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, DotHouse Health, Early Commission Dental Clinic, East Boston NHC, Edward Kennedy Community Health Center, Family Health Center of Worcester, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Harbor Health, Hilltown Community Health Centers, Lowell General Hospital (2), Lowell Community Health Center (2), Massachusetts General Hospital/MGH Health Center, Mercy Medical Center, New England Baptist Hospital, North Shore Community Health, Inc., North Suffolk Mental Health (2), South End Community Health Center, Tufts Medical, Tufts Dental, UMASS Medical, Vital Village/Boston Medical Center, Whittier Street Health Center, Windsor Dental

In the past year, did your organization have anyone on staff or on the board with a "health access" or healthcare background?

Staff only

North Shore CDC: 1 staff

South Middlesex Opportunity Corp: 8 staff

Board only

Urban Edge; Springfield NHS; NOAH; Lawrence CommunityWorks; Home City Housing; Dudley Neighbors, Inc.; Domus, Inc.; Common Capital; Community Development Partnership: 1 board member

HAPHousing: 2 board

Mix

Harborlight Community Partners; Fenway CDC: 1 staff, 1 board

Revitalize CDC: 1 staff, 2 board

Madison Park DC; East Boston CDC: 2 staff, 2 board

Community Teamwork, Inc.: 3 staff, 1 board

Coalition for a Better Acre: 3 staff, 2 board

Housing Assistance Corp: 5 staff, 2 board