

Boston Community Health Collaborative News and Updates

Join a CHIP Work Group!

Get involved in the Boston Community Health Collaborative's 2025–2028 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)! Our work groups bring together community-based organizations, health care partners, public health, and other partners to collaborate on strategies that advance health and well-being across Boston.

Partners are invited to participate in work groups focused on our four CHIP priority areas:

- **Access to Care (Health Screenings)** – Strengthening coordination across organizations providing community-based screenings and outreach, improving connections to follow-up care and expanding access to preventive screenings across Boston, with a focus on hypertension and colorectal cancer.
- **Access to Care (Community-Based Mental Health)** - Advancing community-based approaches to mental health by connecting access to culturally responsive services and supports.
- **Economic Mobility** – Bringing together partners to strengthen connections across efforts that support local entrepreneurs and small businesses, share learning, and explore how entrepreneurship and small business development can advance community well-being and health equity.
- **Housing** – Strengthening connections across partners working to support access to safe, stable, and affordable housing as a foundation for health.

Work groups provide an opportunity to connect with partners, share resources and expertise, identify opportunities for collaboration, and help move CHIP strategies from planning to action.

Interested in getting involved? Please reach out to bostonchna@bphc.org.

Massachusetts Community Health Equity Survey

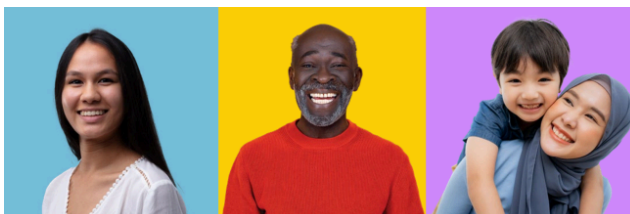
The **Massachusetts Community Health Equity Survey** is live! The statewide survey provides an opportunity for residents across the Commonwealth to share their experiences and perspectives on the factors that shape health and well-being in their communities.

The survey will help gather important information about community needs, health experiences, and barriers to achieving good health, with a focus on understanding differences across communities and populations. Community input can help inform efforts to advance health equity and ensure that public health strategies reflect the experiences and priorities of Massachusetts residents.

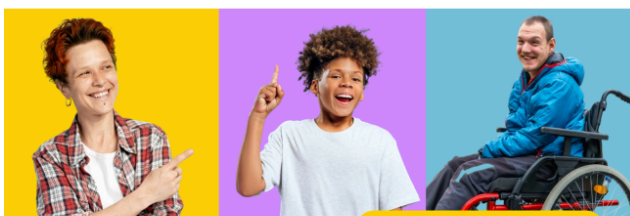
How can partners help? Organizations and community partners are encouraged to share the survey with their networks, clients, residents, and community members. Help spread the word through newsletters, social media, websites, community events, and direct outreach.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has created a Community Health Equity Survey Promotion Toolkit with ready-to-use messaging, graphics, and other resources to make it easier for partners to promote the survey.

Learn more and access promotional resources: [Community Health Equity Survey Promotion Toolkit](#)



Let's create the future we want



Take the survey

When you take the MA Community Health Equity Survey, your experiences and ideas help guide decisions about your community. The survey is available in 11 languages, easy to take, and anonymous.

Take the survey now at mass.gov/HealthSurvey



This survey is part of the Community Health Equity Initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

CH601-EN

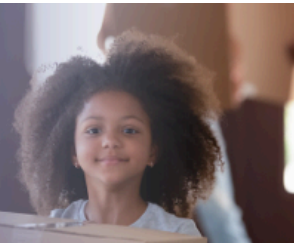
Coalition Partner Spotlight

Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations: [The Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program](#)

[The Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program \(MHHP\)](#) is scaling up the Commonwealth's efforts to address serious health problems caused by substandard housing. Lead, poor indoor air quality, and other substandard housing conditions lead to developmental delays, respiratory disease, and displacement, among other serious, preventable consequences.

MHHP will help property owners improve health and habitability for themselves and tenants through grants, loans, and forgivable loans. The Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC) convenes the MHHP Coalition which successfully advocated for inclusion of MHHP in the Affordable Homes Act which passed during the '23-'24 legislative session.

The MHHP Coalition is comprised of over 50 organizations, including all major Massachusetts hospitals and the Boston Community Health Collaborative. The Coalition is currently focused on securing funding – through the State and/or through private institutions – to fund the program.



The Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program

Improving Housing Quality & Resident Health Now and for the Future

ASK: \$1 MILLION IN FY27 BUDGET

The Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program (MHHP) is scaling up the Commonwealth's efforts to address serious health problems caused by substandard housing. Lead, poor indoor air quality, and other substandard housing conditions lead to developmental delays, respiratory disease, and displacement, among other serious, preventable consequences.



Our Aged Housing Stock is Harming Resident Health

- MA has the second oldest housing stock in the U.S.
- More than 70% of homes in MA were constructed before lead paint was banned in 1978.
- 15 of the 17 High Risk Communities for Childhood Lead Poisoning are Gateway Cities
- Many Gateway Cities suffer from asthma rates 2-3 times the state average.



MA Healthy Homes Program Solution

- Help property owners improve health and habitability for themselves and tenants through grants, loans, and forgivable loans.
- Address hazards including asbestos, mold, pests, and lead.
- Dedicate at least 50% of the funds to buildings in Gateway Cities, due to the heightened need and racial equity impact.
- Support technical assistance to building owners, contractors, and others to ensure successful program implementation.



Housing Quality is a Racial Equity Issue

- Black children are nearly **2.5 times more likely to have lead poisoning** than white children.
- Emergency Department visits for asthma were **2.5 and 3.5 times higher for Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic children** as compared to white children.
- Lead poisoning and asthma-related hospitalizations are significantly higher in Gateway Cities, which have between 2 and four times the statewide average of Black or Latino residents.

Upcoming Boston Community Health Collaborative Events

CHIP Housing Work Group September Topic: Promising Strategies for Supporting Tenancy Preservation (CHIP Objective 4)

Date and Time: September 17th from 12pm – 1pm (virtual via Zoom).

Please register for the meeting and calendar invite [HERE!](#)
This meeting is open to all BCHC community partners.

CHIP Economic Mobility Work Group Kickoff

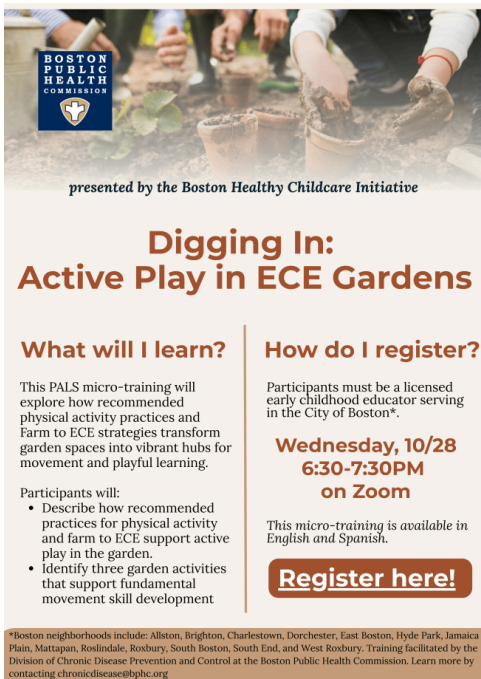
Join the Boston Community Health Collaborative CHIP Economic Mobility Workgroup Kickoff Meeting to discuss **strengthening access to small business education and training for local entrepreneurs and small businesses**. This work group is intended to bridge public health and economic development efforts to identify opportunities where stronger coordination can benefit Boston residents.

Date and Time: September 22nd from 3pm – 4pm (virtual via Zoom).

Please email bostonchna@bphc.org for the meeting link and calendar invite. This meeting is open to all BCHC community partners.

CHIP Partner Updates

Boston Public Health Commission Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Division: Physical Activity Learning Session: Micro Trainings



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

presented by the Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative

Digging In: Active Play in ECE Gardens

What will I learn?

This PALS micro-training will explore how recommended physical activity practices and Farm to ECE strategies transform garden spaces into vibrant hubs for movement and playful learning.

Participants will:

- Describe how recommended practices for physical activity and farm to ECE support active play in the garden.
- Identify three garden activities that support fundamental movement skill development

How do I register?

Participants must be a licensed early childhood educator serving in the City of Boston*.

**Wednesday, 10/28
6:30-7:30PM
on Zoom**

This micro-training is available in English and Spanish.

Register here!

*Boston neighborhoods include: Allston, Brighton, Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, and West Roxbury. Training facilitated by the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Boston Public Health Commission. Learn more by contacting chronicdisease@bphc.org

Public Digging In: Active Play in ECE Gardens:

The Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative presents Digging In: Active Play in ECE Gardens for Boston-based early childhood educators.

In this PALS virtual micro-training, we will explore how recommended physical activity practices and Farm to ECE strategies transform garden spaces into vibrant hubs for movement and playful learning.

Register [HERE](#), and Join on Zoom on **Wednesday, 10/28 from 6:30PM to 7:30PM!**

Have a question or need more information?

Please email chronicdisease@bphc.org

Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement:
Celebrate Welcoming Week 2026 with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement!

From September 10 to 19, [Welcoming Week 2026](#) in Boston will include art, wellness, and economic development programming, as well as virtual and in-



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

presented by the Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative

Active Play in Cold Weather: Supporting Outdoor Play in ECE Settings

What will I learn?

In this PALS micro-training, explore recommended practices, challenges, and solutions to support safe, active, outdoor play in cold weather with young children.

Participants will:

- Explain common misunderstandings about cold weather
- Recognize solutions to common barriers to outdoor play in cold weather play
- and more!

How do I register?

Participants must be a licensed early childhood educator serving in the City of Boston*.

**Wednesday, 12/2
6:30-7:30PM
on Zoom**

This micro-training is available in English and Spanish.

Register here!

*Boston neighborhoods include: Allston, Brighton, Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, and West Roxbury. Training facilitated by the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Boston Public Health Commission. Learn more by contacting chronicdisease@bphc.org

Active Play in Cold Weather:

Supporting Outdoor Play in ECE Settings for Boston-based early childhood educators

In this PALS virtual micro-training, we will explore recommended practices, challenges, and solutions to support safe, active, outdoor play in cold weather with young children.

Register [HERE](#) Join on Zoom on **Wednesday, 12/2 from 6:30PM to 7:30PM!**

City of Boston Office of Climate Resilience:
Summer Weather Guide 2026

Stay safe and prepared this summer with multilingual resources on heat preparedness and protection.

The Summer Weather Guide includes tips for staying safe during extreme heat, as well as information on energy efficiency and weatherization programs.

person events to further promote City services and bring communities together.

Boston's immigrant communities represent the diversity, resilience, and innovation that make the city stronger. Because Boston is a home for everyone. You belong here.

Browse the [calendar of free events](#) and follow The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!



 **WELCOMING WEEK**  City of Boston
Immigrant Advancement

STORIES WE SHARE

The Courage to Connect

Share your story during Welcoming Week
September 10–19, 2026

[#WelcomingWeek2026 - Boston.gov/Welcoming](#)



Beth Israel Health: Data-Driven Sustainability Planning Workshop

Join Beth Israel Lahey Health for an interactive workshop on **Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 10:00–11:30 a.m.** focused on using data, evidence, and community stories to support sustainability planning.

Participants will explore creative and engaging data collection methods, identify tools that align with their data collection priorities, and leave with practical ideas and resources they can use in their work.

Please find more information [HERE](#), including the Summer Weather Guide available in multiple languages.

SUMMER WEATHER GUIDE 2026

To stay informed about heat and advisories, cooling resources:

- Visit [boston.gov/heat](#)
- Sign up for City alerts at [boston.gov/alerts](#)
- Download the Boston 311 app on mobile
- Follow @CityofBoston on social media



This guide is available on [boston.gov/heat](#) in:

Español | Spanish
简体中文 | Simplified Chinese
繁體中文 | Traditional Chinese
Kreyòl ayisyen | Haitian Creole
Português | Brazilian Portuguese
Soomaali | Somali
Kriolu | Cabo Verdean Creole
Русский | Russian
Français | French
Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese
العربية | Arabic

CITY of BOSTON

Maverick Landing Community Services: Grab and Go Fruits and Vegetables

Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS) continues to serve as a resilient community hub, recovering over 120,000 pounds of healthy produce every single month.

To help neighbors stretch their grocery budgets and combat wasted food, MLCS has launched its Grab & Go Produce Market at 31 Liverpool Street in East Boston for \$3, individuals can reserve a Grab & Go Bag

All are welcome!

Register [HERE!](#)

Gathering Outcomes + Feedback for Data-Driven Sustainability Planning

Sustainability Planning Part 2

Thursday, September 24, 2026 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Gathering data is an essential part of sustainability planning. For some, systematically documenting the impact of our work helps us prove our track record and make the case to prospective supporters and collaborators. For others, we recognize the need to gather new input or feedback from our communities – those at the center of our work – so we can plan for the future. For all of us, data, evidence and stories will help us make data-driven decisions about the future of our work. No matter where you fall on this spectrum, we invite you to join our interactive workshop where we share creative, highly engaging and participatory data collection methods that can work well with different audiences. Participants will leave the workshop with a toolkit of practical ideas and resources for gathering data for sustainability planning.



Objectives

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Articulate the pros and cons of various qualitative and quantitative data collection methods;
- Identify relevant data collection tools that align with your data collection priorities.

Register by scanning the QR code or visiting:
<http://tiny.cc/bilh-data-2>

All are welcome! We especially encourage grantees whose grants or projects are ending in the next 12 months to join.

This is the second of three workshops on the topic of transition and sustainability planning. You can register for this workshop even if you didn't attend the first workshop. We will share the materials from part one prior to this workshop.

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

filled with perfectly good fruits and vegetables recovered before being wasted. It's a simple, dignified way to skip long wait times, save money, and bring healthy food home to a family.

Reservations for a grab & go order can be made online or by texting “food” to 855-906-1695.



East Boston Social Centers:

The East Boston Social Centers bring communities together with great programs and initiatives.

Some upcoming opportunities to get involved:

[Resource Guides](#) & [Community Calendar](#): Easy-to-use tools to help your family find local support and events.

Health & Wellness Event - October 3rd: Practical tips on ways to stay healthy with your family, including delicious food, nutrition facts, foods from different cultures, and fun activities for healthy eating. The event's flyers and details will be available in our [website](#) soon. E-mail Benjamin at bbrennan@ebsoc.org for more information!

Legal Key Workshops: Immigration-Related Changes to Public Benefits Eligibility – Monday, November 16, 2026, 10:30am – 11:30 am and Immigration /Education Advocacy for Children with Special Needs – Monday, January 25, 2027 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

Free workshops and follow-up office hours offered to providers looking to help families deal with complex issues that might benefit from legal problem-solving. These workshops provide useful information on families' rights and legal protections and provide updates on key law and policy impacting families in Massachusetts.

Attendees learn how to recognize different ways teams can support individuals and apply advocacy strategies in obtaining documents, services, or benefits. East Boston Social Centers partners gain access to a vast library of legal information, trainings, and one pagers on a variety of topics through the Unlocking Access Hub. Click here to [register](#) as a partner of the East Boston Social Centers.

Policy Corner: Quick, easy-to-read updates on local policies affecting the families in the community, as well as some action you can take to make an impact. These are written by our Policy Fellow, Aliza Kopans. E-mail Aliza at akopans@ebsoc.edu to be added to this listserv.

Want to stay connected?

Click [here](#) to subscribe to East Boston Social Centers email list and to get their policy corner, updates on events, and their work in the community!



Share Your CHIP Success Stories

We invite partners to share programs, initiatives, or successes that are helping advance CHIP strategies. If there is work your organization would like to amplify, please complete the survey for the opportunity to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

[Submit Here](#)

About the Boston Community Health Collaborative

The Boston Community Health Collaborative (BCHC) is a multi-sector collaboration of Boston health institutions, community organizations, and public health working in partnership with Boston communities to improve the health and well-being of Boston residents. Boston Public Health Commission serves as the central coordinating agency. Together, the BCHC strives to address public health challenges and support healthier communities.



Boston Public Health Commission | 1010 Massachusetts Ave | Boston, MA 02118 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!