

Live Long and Well

Boston's Population Health Agenda to Improve Life Expectancy and Equity

Background

Boston is a vibrant, diverse, and thriving city but it is also a city with persistent, troubling health inequities. Recent data from the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) show that life expectancy varies sharply across communities and neighborhoods in Boston. As identified last summer, there is a stark 23-year life expectancy gap between a census tract in the Back Bay and a census tract in Roxbury. Cardiometabolic disease is one leading and preventable contributor to these life expectancy gaps across Boston. Cardiometabolic disease refers to disease of the heart and blood vessels, diabetes, high blood pressure, and chronic kidney disease. Other recent data from the BPHC show that Black and Latinx adults, along with low-income individuals, have higher rates of cardiometabolic disease.

To improve community health and decrease the burden of cardiometabolic disease, we must tackle the social and economic factors that have a major influence on how well and how long we live. Higher levels of education and household income are associated with lower rates of cardiometabolic disease and lower risk of dying prematurely. This initiative recognizes the deep connection between health and wealth, and aims to support healthy longevity in Boston by bolstering economic mobility and other social factors that contribute to health.

Atrius Health Equity Foundation Partnership to Support Live Long and Well Boston

A new multi-sector partnership between the Boston Public Health Commission, Atrius Health Equity Foundation, and the Boston Community Health Collaborative will infuse \$10M to address racial, ethnic, and neighborhood gaps in health outcomes, support community-led priorities, and promote healthier, longer lives for all Boston residents. This targeted funding will support innovative, community-led initiatives that impact health and well-being by promoting economic mobility and inclusion initiatives, a key priority identified in the 2022-2025 Boston Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Closing gaps in life expectancy will require deepened collaboration, focus, and collective action across sectors and partners, including everyone who calls Boston home. This new partnership aligns support for community priorities with a citywide population health agenda to address leading causes of life expectancy gaps and promote health equity in Boston and aims to serve as a model for future collaborative funding approaches. Live Long and Well is a multi-effort initiative focused on reducing disparities in life expectancy in Boston and creating a healthier city for all.

CITY of **BOSTON**



Partnership Goal

The goal of this work is to improve health outcomes related to cardiometabolic disease, by addressing the economic and social conditions that make people sick. To achieve this goal, this partnership will fund community-based coalitions that create inclusive economic mobility and increase generational wealth-building in communities and neighborhoods most impacted by and at risk of cardiometabolic disease. This initiative will encourage stronger coordination and collaboration among community organizations, work to build powerful community voice, and strive for enduring impact by aligning systems and structures to achieve community goals.

Key Activities

- Engage with a range of community and other experts to build awareness of complementary efforts to address cardiometabolic health outcomes, community assets, and promising solutions in the City of Boston;
- Convene a workgroup with community representatives to develop an initial funding opportunity;
- Release initial funding opportunity and identify grantees;
- Support grantees and capture shared learnings, including best practices and evidence of impact.

Key Partners

Boston Public Health Commission – Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the country's oldest health department. BPHC envisions a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy and fulfilling lives. To accomplish this, BPHC works in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those impacted by racism and systemic inequities.

Atrius Health Equity Foundation – A private foundation that aims to close the gap in life expectancy in Eastern Massachusetts.

Boston Community Health Collaborative – A multi-sector collaborative that brings together partners from across the local public health system every three years through a coordinated Community Health Needs Assessment and to develop a shared Community Health Improvement Plan.

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