

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 Barnstable Prevention Partnership, coordinated by the Barnstable County Department of Human Services, received \$3.9 million as one of nine partnerships across the Commonwealth.**

### THE NEED

**Preventable and chronic health conditions continue to climb.**

Furthermore, health care inequities based on race, income, and geography are a persistent challenge. Barnstable County's cities and towns share many cultural and social assets, institutions, and aspirations. They are also home to some of Massachusetts' most vulnerable, high-risk individuals and families suffering from health disparities associated with poverty and disaffiliated aging in-place.

Prior to PWTF, no coordinated approach existed to address common health challenges and inequities affecting these communities.

**PWTF leverages a network of health care providers, community-based organizations, residents, leaders, and existing initiatives to bring a comprehensive approach to the prevention and management of hypertension and falls in older adults.**

### CLINICAL PARTNERS

- Community Health Center of Cape Cod
- Duffy Health Center
- Harbor Community Health Center, Hyannis

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- YMCA of Cape Cod
- Healthy Living Cape Cod Coalition
  - Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands (ESCCI)
  - Gosnold on Cape Cod
  - Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod (VNA)

### BARNSTABLE SNAPSHOT

Covers Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Barnstable  
110,484 residents<sup>1</sup>; representing  
half of the Cape Cod area

**Hypertension:** 31.9% of adults have been told they have hypertension vs. 28.8% statewide.<sup>2</sup>

**Falls in Older Adults:** 15.3% of residents over age 65 have experienced a fall with an injury in the last 12 months vs. 10.1% statewide.<sup>2</sup>

*"The time I spend going to the doctor is better spent by taking care of myself. These classes taught me to do that."*

— Cape Cod resident

## 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.

## THE PARTNERSHIPS

PWTF supports a partnership that shares leadership among clinical, municipal, and community organizations. **The coordinating partner (Barnstable County Department of Human Services) 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.

## THE LOCAL IMPACT

Since implementing the program, the Barnstable Partnership **made over 1,232 referrals** from clinical sites to community organizations. PWTF is proving to be an essential component in the mission to improve health outcomes and combat health inequities in our communities.

Massachusetts  
Department of  
Public Health



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

1. US Census, American FactFinder. 2010 data. Prepared by MDPH.

2. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC and Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health. 2011-2014 data. Prepared by MDPH. Grantee SAE covers three years to stabilize the small sample numbers.