

**Updated October 3, 2025**

### **Identifying Needs and Gathering Community Feedback**

Every three years, Boston Children's Hospital conducts a formal Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify health-related needs, strengths, and resources of Boston residents and individuals served by its satellite clinics. This process includes: (a) review of existing secondary data from national, state, and local sources and, (b) collection of primary data through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and other forums that capture the experiences and needs of individuals in BCH's service area. Input is gathered from a wide range of stakeholders, including leaders and staff at community-based organizations and health centers, members of the Community Advisory Board, as well as youth, residents, and families. This feedback shapes our understanding of the most pressing health and social concerns facing the community and informs how the hospital can respond. This Community Health Implementation Plan responds to the overall findings of the CHNA and outlines the strategies, goals, and objectives that

Boston Children's will implement to address these priorities in order to make a meaningful impact on community health over the next three years.

### **Developing the Implementation Plan**

Boston Children's Office of Community Health (OCH) oversees the triennial needs assessment process and coordinates with other hospitals' health needs assessments being done simultaneously through the Boston Community Health Collaborative. In the development of the Community Health Implementation Plan, OCH reviewed the findings from its 2025 needs assessment with the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and facilitated a discussion to gather further reflections. They recommended that Boston Children's continue to look at strategies and opportunities around youth development, the impact of social media on youth mental health, continue to address the pediatric mental health crisis, and the focus on engagement of youth. CAB members also emphasized the following priority areas: Housing stability, mental health, food access, and chronic health conditions such as asthma and obesity as primary areas of focus for Boston Children's hospital.

### **Priority Areas for 2025 - 2028**

Based on the assessment process and feedback gathered from community stakeholders, Boston Children's has identified the following priorities to focus the Community Health Implementation Plan for 2025-2028:

#### **2025 Community Health Implementation Plan Priorities:**

1. Promote mental health and emotional wellness
2. Support affordable and stable housing for children and families
3. Increase access to affordable and nutritious food
4. Improve the health of children and families managing asthma and obesity
5. Promote healthy youth development
6. Improve early childhood education, health, and developmental supports

This document shares how Boston Children's will address each priority area through programs, directing resources, and in partnership with others. It is expected that the plan will continue to evolve and be refined as needed during the next three-year period. The Office of Community Health will oversee and support the implementation of these strategies in the coming cycle.

**Summary 2025-2028 CHIP Goals and Objectives**

<b>Goal 1.</b>	<b>Promote mental health and emotional wellness by nurturing resilient communities and building equitable, accessible, and supportive systems of care.</b>
<b><u>Objectives</u></b>	Increase the number and diversity of culturally/linguistically competent licensed clinical behavioral health providers and community-based behavioral health workers.
	Provide services and supports and identify resources to increase mental health and trauma services where children live and learn.
<b>Goal 2.</b>	<b>Support safe, stable, healthy, equitable, affordable housing for children and families.</b>
<b><u>Objectives</u></b>	Create new, diverse affordable housing options for families through community investment.
	Support policy and systems changes that would decrease the number of low/moderate income families with children who are homeless or housing insecure.
	Preserve existing affordable housing options and/or support housing stability for families with children.
<b>Goal 3.</b>	<b>Increase access to affordable and nutritious food for children and families.</b>
<b><u>Objectives</u></b>	Support efforts to provide culturally relevant food and nutrition education to children and families.
	Strengthen community infrastructure for healthy food.
<b>Goal 4.</b>	<b>Improve the health of children and families managing asthma and obesity.</b>
<b><u>Objectives</u></b>	Implement community health programs that reduce the racial disparities in care and health outcomes for children with asthma and obesity.
<b>Goal 5.</b>	<b>Promote healthy youth development through youth-centered programming and career pathways.</b>
<b><u>Objectives</u></b>	Foster personal development of youth through leadership skill-building, mentorship, interest exploration, and identity formation.
	Expand career pathways for youth through college, trades/training, and direct employment.
	Strengthen the capacity of the youth serving workforce.
<b>Goal 6.</b>	<b>Improve early childhood education, health, and developmental supports.</b>
<b><u>Objectives</u></b>	Expand training and quality improvement supports for early education and care (EEC) community-based providers.
	Enhance engagement and skill building for parents and families with children birth to 5-years old through community programing.
	Advocate and collaborate to sustain and increase the amount of flexible, affordable, high-quality childcare for children birth to 5-years old.

**Goal 1: Promote mental health and emotional wellness by nurturing resilient communities and building equitable, accessible, and supportive systems of care.**

**Objective 1: Increase the number and diversity of culturally/linguistically competent licensed clinical behavioral health providers and community-based behavioral health workers.**

**Strategies:**

**A.** Recruit and train students in pediatric mental health through scholarships, mentorship, and supervision.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Children's Services of Roxbury
- Springfield College
- UMass BIRCh Project
- William James College

**B.** Continue to support equity focused and trauma informed training for staff in school communities, childcare programs, afterschool programs and other youth-serving organizations.

**City Partners:**

- Boston Public Health Commission

**Objective 2: Provide services and supports and identify resources to increase mental health and trauma services where children live and learn.**

**Strategies:**

**A.** Employ licensed clinicians to support Boston Public Schools students, families, and staff.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- BAGLY
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
- Bridge Over Troubled Waters
- The Center for Teen Empowerment
- Immigrant Family Services Institute
- YouthBuild Boston

**Hospital Program:**

- Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnership

**B.** Provide trauma informed training for mental and behavioral health providers in order to help build behavioral health capacity, with a focus on underserved neighborhoods and communities that are impacted by long-standing stress and exposure to trauma.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- Children's Services of Roxbury
- Codman Square Health Center
- MSPCC/MassAIMH
- Springfield College
- UMass BIRCh Project
- Urban College of Boston
- VietAID
- Walker
- Wayside
- William James College

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement
- Boston Public Health Commission - Capacity Building and Training Initiative
- Boston Public Health Commission – Community Healing Response Network

- C.** Support behavioral health training and capacity building in pre-K-12 schools and appropriate community settings, including Psychological First Aid, and trauma-informed approaches

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Initiative
- Friends and Mentors
- Brockton's Promise Alliance for Youth
- Immigrant Family Services Institute
- Living Safely in Jackson Square Coalition (Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation)
- Metro South/West Workforce Board Neighbor Villages
- The NAN Project
- Neighborhood Villages
- Raising A Reader MA
- Resilient Families Surround Care School Community Coalition (Higher Ground)

**City Partners:**

- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Public Schools
- Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement

- D.** Support the Community Healing & Response Network to ensure adequate citywide funding and coverage for mental health and trauma support services available in response to community violence.

**City Partners:**

- Boston Public Health Commission

**Goal 2: Support safe, stable, healthy, equitable, affordable housing for children and families.**

**Objective 1: Create new, diverse affordable housing options for families through community investment.**

**Strategies:**

- A.** Provide grants and low interest loans to expand affordable housing options for families in Greater Boston.

**Community Partners:**

- Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation
- The Community Builders

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office of Housing

**Hospital Program:**

- Boston Children's Investment Advisory Committee

**Objective 2: Support policy and systems changes that would decrease the number of low/moderate income families with children who are homeless or housing insecure.**
**Strategies:**

**A.** Preserve existing affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income families.

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office of Housing
- Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation

**B.** Support immediate housing stabilization for children and families through flexible cash resources, training, tenant organizing and advocacy.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- City Life/Vida Urbana
- Fields Corner Crossroads Collaborative (DOT House Health)
- Living Safely in Jackson Square Coalition (Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation)
- Waltham Community Response Collaborative (WATCH CDC)

**Objective 3: Preserve existing affordable housing options and/or support housing stability for families with children.**
**Strategies:**

**A.** Increase the number of first-time, first-generation homebuyers.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- Living Safely in Jackson Square Coalition
- Mass Affordable Housing Alliance

**Goal 3: Increase access to affordable, nutritious food for children and their families.****Objective 1: Support efforts to provide culturally relevant food and nutrition education to children and families.****Strategies:**

- A.** Continue implementation of Family Food Connections, a community food pantry program operated by Boston Children's in local housing development and includes "community ambassadors", local residents that volunteer at the food pantry and provide valuable ongoing feedback about the resident experience in the pantry.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Greater Boston Food Bank
- Tree of Life

**City Partners**

- Boston Housing Authority

- B.** Provide opportunities for culturally relevant nutrition education and activities at community health centers and in community settings.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • ABCD                                  | • Brookside Community Health Center           | • Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church |
| • Allston Brighton Health Collaborative | • Brockton Interfaith Community               | • ICNA Relief                            |
| • BOLD Teens                            | • Charles River Community Health              | • Mattapan Community Health Center       |
| • Boston Community Pediatrics           | • Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp | • Metro South West Boys and Girls Club   |
| • Boston Food Forest Coalition          | • The Dimock Center                           | • NeighborHealth                         |
| • Boston Green Academy                  | • Dorchester Food Co-op                       | • Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center   |
| • Bowdoin Street Health Center          | • Haley House                                 | • Tifereth Raphael                       |
| • Brighton High School                  |   | • Upham's Community Care                 |

**Hospital Program**

- Boston Children's at Martha Eliot Health Center

**Objective 2: Strengthen community infrastructure for healthy food.****Strategies:**

- A.** Train and employ youth and community residents to build community gardens and farms, grow food, and operate local food retail outlets.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • Allston Brighton Health Collaborative | • Brockton Interfaith Community               | • Haley House                            |
| • BOLD Teens                            | • City Fresh Foods                            | • Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church |
| • Boston Food Forest Coalition          | • Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp | • Metro South West Boys and Girls Club   |
| • Boston Green Academy                  | • Dorchester Food Co-Op                       | • Sociedad Latina                        |

**Goal 4: Improve the health of children and families managing asthma and obesity.****Objective 1: Implement community health programs that reduce the racial disparities in care and health outcomes for children with asthma and obesity.****Strategies:**

**A.** Continue implementing comprehensive, proactive asthma population management strategies in primary care clinics at Boston Children's.

**Hospital Program:**

- Children's Hospital Primary Care Center
- Boston Children's at Martha Eliot Health Center

**B.** Continue implementing Boston Children's Hospital Community Asthma Initiative, a home-visiting program for asthma that provides a full spectrum of case management including family/patient education, asthma self-management and environmental remediation supports.

**Community Partners:**

- Boston community health centers

**City Partner:**

- Boston Public Health Commission Asthma Home Visit Program

**C.** Provide education and resources on asthma management for health care providers in schools and the community.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Boston community health centers, including Bowdoin Street Health Center, The Dimock Center, and Mattapan Community Health Center
- Primary care pediatric providers in the community, including Boston Community Pediatrics

**City Partner:**

- Boston Public Schools Health Services

**D.** Continue implementing weight management and obesity prevention programs in community health centers and Boston Children's Primary Care.

**Community Partners:**

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|---|------------------------------------|--|
| • Boston Children's at Martha Eliot Health Center | • Charles River Community Health   | • Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center |
| • Boston Community Pediatrics                     | • The Dimock Center                | • Upham's Community Care               |
| • Bowdoin Street Health Center                    | • Mattapan Community Health Center | • YMCA of Greater Boston               |
| • Brookside Community Health Center               | • NeighborHealth                   |  |

**E.** Increase alignment and collaborations among Boston Children's healthy weight programs, community health centers, and community partners.

**Community Partners:**

- All community health centers listed above in strategy "D"

**City Partner**

- Mayor's Office of Early Childhood/Boston Public Health Commission

**Hospital program:**

- New Balance Foundation Obesity Prevention Center at Boston Children's Hospital

**Goal 5: Promote healthy youth development through youth-centered programming and career pathways.****Objective 1: Foster personal development of youth through leadership skill-building, mentorship, interest exploration, and identity formation.****Strategies:**

- A.** Provide youth with low or no cost enrichment, recreational, and healing activities across all seasons, positive development opportunities, and address barriers to participation.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| • ABCD Ostiguy High School              | • Codman Square Health Center                        | • Mothers for Justice and Equality     |
| • Africano Waltham                      | • Crossroads for Kids                                | • NeighborHealth                       |
| • BAGLY                                 | • Doc Wayne Youth Services                           | • Rose Conservatory                    |
| • BOLD Teens                            | • DOT House Health                                   | • Sociedad Latina                      |
| • Boston Centers for Youth and Families | • Friends and Mentors                                | • Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center |
| • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center  | • Friends of the Children – Boston                   | • The Center for Teen Empowerment      |
| • Boston Green Academy                  | • Girls' LEAP  | • The City School                      |
| • Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston        | • Haley House  | • Walker                               |
| • Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro South   | • Immigrant Family Services Institute                | • Waltham Partnership for Youth        |
| • Brighton High School                  | • Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation | • YouthBuild Boston                    |
| • Brockton Interfaith Community         | • Madison Park Development Corporation               | • Young Man with a Plan                |
| • Bridge Over Troubled Waters           | • Metro South/West Workforce Board                   | • The NAN Project                      |
| • Cape Verdean Women United             |  |  |

**City Partners**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Boston Housing Authority          | • Mayor's Office of Human Services                   |
| • Boston Parks and Recreation       | • Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement |
| • Mayor's Office of Early Childhood |  |

- B.** Engage high school students in exploration of mental and behavioral health resources and advocacy with Boston Children's Hospital.

**Hospital Program:**

- Boston Children's Hospital Alliance to Growth program

- C.** Provide youth and residents with leadership training and coaching to advocate for healthy living opportunities.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- 30+ grant partners. See "Strategy A" for list.



**Objective 2: Expand career pathways for youth through college, trades/training, and direct employment.****Strategies:**

**A.** Provide high quality youth employment, college readiness, direct-to-workforce training, and paid internship opportunities in the community.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- 30+ grant partners. See "Objective 1, Strategy A" for list.

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement

**B.** Employ local high school and college students each summer and during the school year at Boston Children's Hospital.

**Hospital Program:**

- Boston Children's Hospital COACH Program

**Objective 3: Strengthen the capacity of the youth serving workforce.****Strategies:**

**A.** Develop social emotional wellness curricula and provide trauma-informed training and workshops for staff at youth development organizations who serve youth and families.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |  |                                    |                      |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center | • Friends and Mentors              | • Resilient Families |
| • Brockton Neighborhood Health Center  | • Metro South/West Workforce Board | • Walker             |
| • Cape Verdean Women United            | • NAN Project                      | • Wayside            |
| • Codman Square Health Center          |                                    |                      |

**City Partners:**

- Boston Public Health Commission
- Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement

**B.** Advocate with city and state officials for increased youth development workforce investments through continued investment in promoting mental health.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |  |                                       |                                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • BAGLY                                  | • Friends of the Children – Boston    | • Resilient Families              |
| • Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston         | • Girls' LEAP                         | • Sociedad Latina                 |
| • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center   | • Immigrant Family Services Institute | • The Center for Teen Empowerment |
| • Bridge Over Troubled Waters            | • Madison Park Development Corp       | • The City School                 |
| • Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative  | • Mildred C. Hailey Youth Center      | • YouthBuild Boston               |
| • DOT House Health                       | • Mothers for Justice and Equality    | • Young Man with a Plan           |
| • Fields Corner Crossroads Collaborative | • NeighborHealth                      |                                   |

**Goal 6: Improve early childhood education, health, and developmental supports.****Objective 1: Expand training and quality improvement supports for early education and care (EEC) community-based providers.****Strategies:**

- A.** Provide technical assistance and training for family child-care provider networks and training for EEC providers in social emotional learning, child health, developmental screening.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Boston Opportunity Agenda
- East Boston Social Centers
- MSPCC/MassAIMH
- Raising A Reader
- Neighborhood Villages
- Nurtury
- The Basics
- Urban College of Boston
- VietAID
- Resilient Families Surround Care School Community Coalition

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity
- Mayor's Office of Early Childhood/Boston Public Health Commission

- B.** Support the statewide early childhood mental health endorsement system and establish multi-tiered systems of support for providers working with young children and families.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- MSPCC/Mass AIMH
- Neighborhood Villages
- Urban College of Boston

**Objective 2: Enhance engagement and skill building for parents and families with children birth to 5-years old through community programing .****Strategies:**

- A.** Provide parents of young children with skill building, leadership training and coaching opportunities.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Boston Opportunity Agenda
- East Boston Social Centers
- Families First
- First Teacher
- Immigrant Family Services Institute
- Neighborhood Birth Center
- Raising A Reader MA
- Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education
- The Basics
- The Community Builders
- VietAID
- Voices of the Community
- Resilient Families Surround Care School Community Coalition

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity
- Boston Public Health Commission

**B.** Support group-based and peer-to-peer approaches to increase parents' knowledge, emotional stability and responsiveness, and direct caregiving skills.

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center | • Neighborhood Villages                        | • VietAID   |
| • East Boston Social Centers           | • Nurtury                                      | • Vital Village Networks                                      |
| • Families First                       | • Raising A Reader MA                          | • Voices of the Community                                     |
| • First Teacher                        | • Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education | • Resilient Families Surround Care School Community Coalition |
| • Immigrant Family Services Institute  | • The Basics                                   |   |
| • Neighborhood Birth Center            | • The Community Builders                       |   |

**Objective 3: Advocate and collaborate to sustain and increase the amount of flexible, affordable, high-quality childcare for children birth to 5-years old.**

**Strategies:**

**A.** Continue advocacy collaborations to improve employer-based childcare resources and supports and improve quality and access to early education and care services.

**City Partners:**

- Mayor's Office of Early Childhood
- Boston Public Schools

**Institutional Partners:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Boston Medical Center (Boston Opportunity Systems Collaborative) | • MA Department of Early Education and Care |
| • MA Business Coalition for Early Childhood Education              | • MA Early Childhood Funders Collaborative  |

**Community Grant Partners:**

- |                              |                         |                           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Boston Opportunity Agenda  | • MSPCC/MassAIMH        | • Strategies for Children |
| • East Boston Social Centers | • Neighborhood Villages | • The Community Builders  |