Dear Community Members,

Thank you for your continued partnerships, collaborations, thoughtfulness, and innovation. We are so pleased to be working with you all to continue the journey of creating an equitable Western MA. PHIWM will continue to uplift stories and data to reveal our region’s strengths, identify community needs, and advocate for vital resources. We continue to work on collaborative efforts to decrease health inequities created by unjust systems, structures, (dis)investment, and policy. This report highlights some of our impact metrics.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lee-Rambharose, Board President
Jessica Collins, Executive Director

on behalf of the board and staff

What We Do

The Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts builds measurably healthier and more equitable communities through community engagement, collaborative partnerships, research and evaluation, and policy advocacy.

Coalition Building

Successful collaborations begin and end with shared community ownership. We provide expert facilitation to ensure all voices are heard.

7 coalitions: LiveWell Springfield (LWS) Climate Justice, LWS Age Friendly, Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition, Healthy Air Network, Youth Mental Health Coalition, Springfield Healthy Homes Collaborative, and Capacity Building for Racial Equity

64 organizations brought together by our coalitions

21 resident advisors worked with our coalitions (compared to 2 in 2018 when we initiated the program)

Our Service Area

We work in all 4 counties in Western Massachusetts. This map shows the number of projects we had in each county in 2022. We were also involved in a statewide project.

Our Vision is for all people within our region to have access to what they need to lead healthy lives.

Resident Advisors attend a training about policy advocacy on 3/18/23.
Capacity Building, Training, and Communications

We view every project as an opportunity to build community capacity and assets.

25 trainings brought to the region, covering topics such as community-based participatory research, evaluation methodology, health equity, racial equity, and youth mental health

24 organizations provided with technical assistance

14 webinars hosted since launching our regional communications work in 2020, including topics such as COVID-19; Sexual Violence Against Girls and Young Women; History of Tobacco, Slavery, and Health; and the use of CORIs in housing decisions

1,624 people reached by the webinars

Anti-Racism Action Continuum

Supporting Oppression

Actively participating

Denying, ignoring

Recognizing, no action

Educating self

Supporting, encouraging

Initiating, preventing

Confronting Oppression

Educating others

Initiating, preventing

Supporting, encouraging

Educating self

Recognizing, no action

Denying, ignoring

Actively participating

Capacity Building for Racial Equity

We co-lead the Capacity Building for Racial Equity Initiative with the Women of Color Health Equity Collective. The initiative brings together individuals and organizations to build their racial justice capacity. Moving individuals and organizations along a continuum for advancing racial justice will impact all of us. It is critical to supporting economic growth for all and eliminating health inequities.

Research and Evaluation

We continue to evolve how we embed health equity into all of our projects.

10 assessments covering topics such as Community Health Needs Assessments for the Coalition of Western Massachusetts Hospitals/Insurer and Black Men’s Health

10 evaluations augmenting regional efforts on topics including human trafficking, LGBTQI youth, higher ed professional services, healing racism, and healthcare innovation

See full size image and source information.

Dr. Szegda shares findings from our Health Impact Assessment about Healthy Aging with a Criminal Record in Hampden County MA during APHA’s 2022 Annual Meeting.

Resident Advisors attend a training about health equity on 12/10/22.

Strengthen your understanding of race and health equity

Check out our Race and Health Equity Resource Guide!
Policy Advocacy

Our policy priorities stem from findings and recommendations of our research and coalition work, rooted in data and stories from people with lived experience.

6 testimonies submitted for state bills relating to equitable access to health care and CORI sealing/second chance legislation

20 budget amendments advocated for relating to housing security, mental health, public transportation, food security, and economic justice

1 local policy win for Live Well Springfield related to Community Choice Energy

413Cares

413Cares expanded its reach in 2022, with the help of legislative support through a state earmark. Over the past year, 413Cares has more than doubled its partnerships and is recognized as a go-to place to share resources and information. Several community collaboratives have campaigns that direct people to 413Cares. This mutually beneficial partnership model increases awareness about individual resources and 413Cares overall.

31,762 searches on 413Cares.org (compared to 17,841 in 2021)

3,445 programs listed

7 partnerships on substance use, mentoring, food security, economic security, employment, and digital equity

Sharing Resources for a Greater Impact

We are on a growth trajectory. As our revenue grows, we’re able to support more individuals and organizations in the region who work on important issues like climate justice, air quality, age-friendly environments, youth mental health, and opioid harm reduction. To keep our small but mighty team going, we secure a diversity of funding sources like competitive grants and service contracts. We are grateful for the generous unrestricted funding we’ve received from Baystate Health and Health New England.