

Lowell Community Health Center

Substance Use and Prevention Task Force Regional Initiative

\$100,000 was awarded in 2014 to implement a regional prevention education initiative



About the Lowell Community Health Center

The LCHC provides a variety of primary care services, behavioral health, youth, and community health services. The LCHC also operates three satellite health centers: the Metta Health Center (which is primarily focused on the health needs of the Southeast Asian population); additionally, two school-based health centers are located at Lowell High School and the Stoklosa Middle School.

Goals & Objectives

The LCHC had planned to implement a regional prevention education initiative with the grant funds provided. The goal of this initiative was to provide substance abuse prevention education, and to increase awareness on issues facing communities in the Greater Lowell Region.

The core target population identified by the grant recipients were children and young adults up to the age of 21 (with a secondary focus on outreach to parents, families, community residents and service providers).

Outcomes

- Funds were used to hire a Director, Program Coordinator, Regional Health Educator, to pay for staff training and travel, program supplies, the program's facilities, and payroll taxes & fringe benefits.
- A substance use/abuse curriculum was established for the following communities: Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, and Lowell
- School faculty from elementary, middle and high-schools in these communities were trained in this substance abuse curriculum.
- The educational initiatives were well received in the communities they were implemented in: in Billerica, they have dedicated 1 period every week to the curriculum. Chelmsford used the curriculum as inspiration for a community-based educational event.