



2017 Greater Lowell Community Health Improvement Plan

CULTURAL COMPETENCY/ CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

Improve the capacity of health and social services agencies to provide national standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) to all individuals in order to reduce disparities and achieve health equity.

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Foster a community that focuses on providing access to nutritious food through resources and education to ultimately reduce the rates of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

Objectives

- Obj. 1:** Engage community partners in the collaboration of educational opportunities on healthy eating
- Obj. 2:** Increase the number of healthy incentive programs
- Obj. 3:** Modify or implement nutritional practices within municipal policies
- Obj. 4:** Promote and educate economic benefits of accessing healthy foods

ASTHMA

Reduce the burden and incidence of asthma in the region through education, prevention, and advocacy efforts.

Objectives

- Obj. 1:** Increase resources to conduct asthma assessments, education, and prevention.
- Obj. 2:** Increase communication to enhance the continuity of care
- Obj. 3:** Educate residents on identifying triggers and addressing environmental issues
- Obj. 4:** Advocate for the development and adherence to policies for better air quality in housing, schools, and public areas

MENTAL HEALTH

Foster a supportive and mindful community that has an equally shared, respectful, and holistic understanding of mental and physical

Objectives

- Obj. 1:** Strengthen the expertise and capacity of the mental health work force in the region.
- Obj. 2:** Increase the number of well-trained, culturally-diverse mental health providers and Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Obj. 3:** Decrease mental health stigma by increasing knowledge and awareness amongst the community about mental health.
- Obj. 4:** Strengthen communication and care coordination between primary care physicians, patients, behavioral health providers, other support services, parents, guardians, caregivers as it relates to mental health and substance use services.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Improve the overall health of the region through safe, equitable access to physical activity.

Objectives

- Obj. 1:** Advocate for policies and practices that increase access to physical activities
- Obj. 2:** Increase the amount of safe indoor or outdoor physical activity sites
- Obj. 3:** Develop and promote workplace initiatives

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Have a culture that provide equitable access to education, employment opportunities, transportation, housing, positive social environments, and health care to achieve improved positive health outcomes.

Objectives

- Obj. 1:** Provide trainings and workshops for providers and community leaders to increase their awareness of contextual, social, historical and cultural factors that influence health behaviors and health outcomes
- Obj. 2:** Increase access and capacity to preventative care for low-socioeconomic populations
- Obj. 3:** Increase understanding of specific underserved communities' health-related priorities, obstacles and strengths

SUBSTANCE USE & PREVENTION

Create a region that prevents substance misuse and/or reduces substance use disorder and associated mental health illnesses for all populations.

Objectives

- Obj. 1:** Early intervention through preventative education, assessments, screenings and services provide resources for children and adolescents.
- Obj. 2:** Increase access and awareness to treatment services and resources.
- Obj. 3:** Collaborate on strategies that emphasize treatment over punishment