

WESTFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP KICK-OFF MEETING

September 27th, 2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Westford Health
Department**

Welcome!

Thank you for joining and representing your organization as part of the Westford Community Assessment and Improvement Process Partnership.



PHOTO: DAVID FINGERHUT

*“A community health improvement process looks outside of the performance of an individual organization serving a specific segment of a community to **the way in which the activities of many organizations contribute to community health improvement.**”*

- National Association of County and City Health Officials

Today's Session

- ❑ What to Expect
- ❑ Group Agreements
- ❑ Introductions & Poll
- ❑ What is a CHA and CHIP?
- ❑ Adapting a Westford-Specific CHA/CHIP
- ❑ Next Steps
- ❑ Future Planning

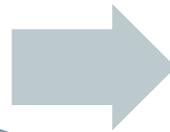
Today's Goal:

Create a shared understanding of the foundations and role of partners in adapting a Westford-specific Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan.

What to Expect

Our Commitment

- To provide an inclusive space and framework for a community health improvement process.



Our Ask

- To be fully engaged and ready to contribute your thoughts and ideas across 4 monthly meetings.



Our Outcomes

- Collaborative partnerships leading to shared understandings, priorities, and goals across organizations.

Group Agreements



Active Participation

It is important for everyone to participate.



Respect and Listen

Everyone's views have equal value.



Be Creative

Be creative when proposing solutions.



Be Open

There are always weaknesses to improve and strengths to sustain.

Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns (optional)
- Position/Title
- Organization
- Ice Breaker: What do you believe is Westford's biggest asset for residents?

What do we mean by health?

The World Health Organization Constitution states that...

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."



Community Health Assessments (CHA)

A community health assessment (CHA) identifies and describes the...



It is community-driven and collaborative:

“developed by the community for the community”

Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA)

A Community Health **Needs** Assessment (CHNA) is an assessment required for all tax-exempt hospitals under the Internal Revenue Code (IRS) by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The Greater Lowell Health Alliance completed a Community Health Needs Assessment in 2022 which included the following communities:

Billerica	Lowell
Chelmsford	Tewksbury
Dracut	Tyngsborough
Dunstable	Westford

This regional CHNA will serve as a starting point for our own Westford-specific Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan.



Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP)

A community health improvement plan (or CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort **to address community health issues based on the results of community health assessment activities.** →

Sets priorities and defines targeted actions for improving health and well-being

Addresses strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities in a community

Defines the vision for the health of a community through a collaborative process

Develops objectives and strategies for community health improvement actions

Benefits of CHAs & CHIPs



Provides comprehensive information about a community's current health status and needs for prioritizing work.



Creates a process for justifying how and where resources should be allocated to meet community needs.



Strengthens partnerships and collaboration across community based organizations and local governments.



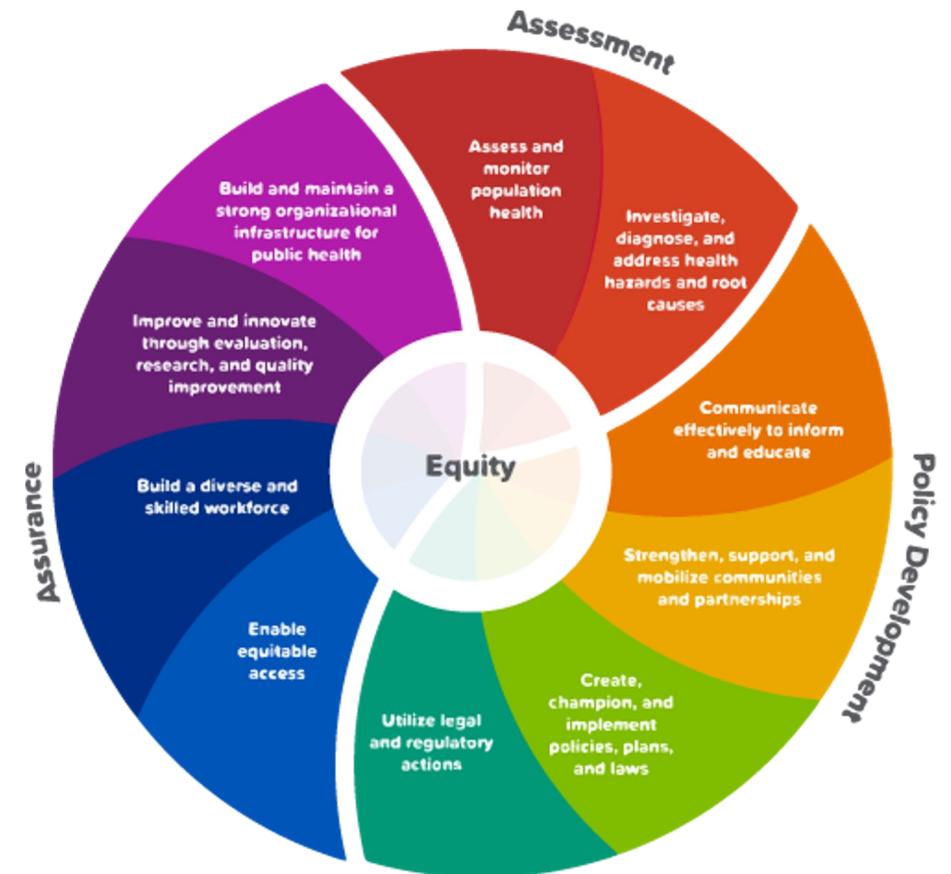
Leads to action-oriented goals and measurable outcomes in the health status of the community.



Creates a foundation for health departments working towards Public Health Accreditation (PHAB).

Public Health Accreditation

- Public Health Accreditation is the measurement of health department performance against a set of **nationally recognized, practice focused and evidence-based standards**.
- The accreditation process provides a framework for health departments in meeting the 10 Essential Public Health Services outlined by the CDC.
- The goal of accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments.

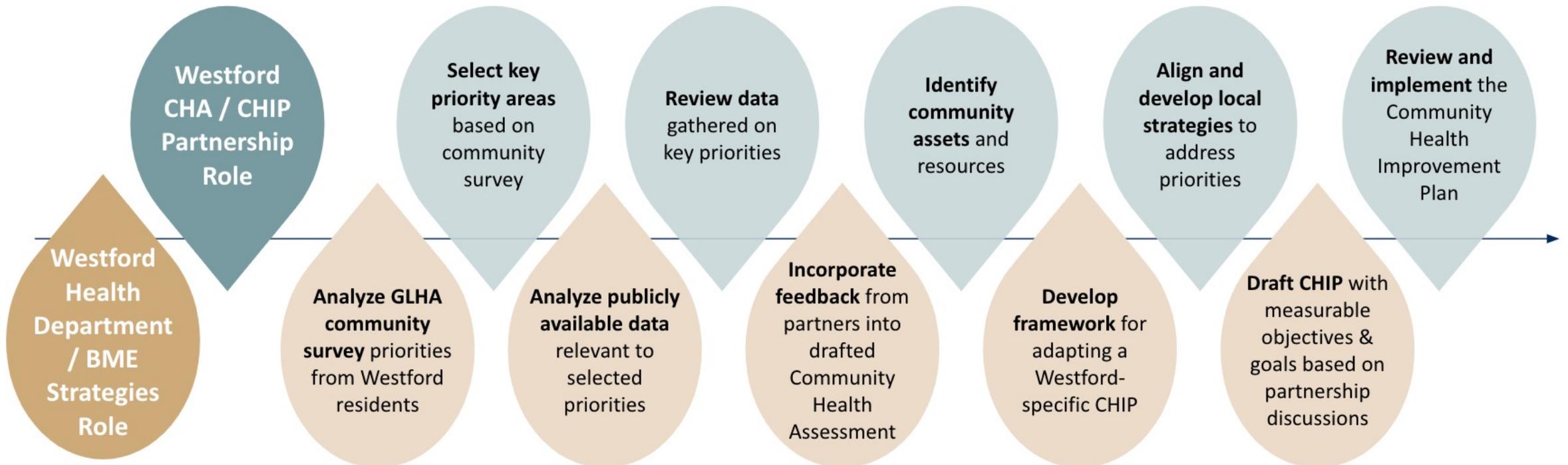


Created 2020

Adapting a Westford-Specific CHA & CHIP

CHA Lead	Greater Lowell Health Alliance Regional CHNA	Town of Westford CHA
Community Scope	Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford	Westford
Data Collection	Community Surveys Public Health Data Community Focus Groups Key Informant Interviews	GLHA Westford Community Survey Public Health Data Westford Specific Organizations & Partners
Outcome	Regional GLHA Community Health Improvement Plan	Westford Community Health Improvement Plan

Westford CHA/CHIP Process



Key Takeaways

- **We will be utilizing the regional GLHA data and other local data sources to develop a Westford-specific CHA and CHIP in order to:**
 - ◆ Limit over-sampling of the community
 - ◆ Leverage the data that has already been collected to avoid repeating work

- **We need your engagement and input as representatives of the Westford community in order to:**
 - ◆ Identify priorities specific to the Town of Westford based on the available data
 - ◆ Develop collaborative strategies that align the work and priorities of organizations across Westford to more effectively address the health of community members

Next Steps: Identifying Westford Priorities

Residents were asked to indicate the three most important issues for each of the following categories as part of the GLHA community survey:

Community Health Issues

(ex: substance use, cancer, diabetes, mental health, etc)

Community Safety Issues

(ex: discrimination, domestic violence, property crime, etc)

Community Resources

(ex: access to mental health services, affordable housing, etc)

We will be reviewing and utilizing the survey responses of Westford residents at our next meeting to determine key priority areas for this Westford-specific CHA/CHIP process.

Future Planning

September

Partnership Kick-Off Meeting

October

Identifying Community Priorities

November

Reviewing Westford-Specific Data

January

Adapting a Westford-Specific CHIP

Brief Reflection

- 1 What went well today?
- 2 What could have gone better?
- 3 How did everyone feel about using the Mentimeter tools?
- 4 Are there any questions that are still unanswered?



*“If you want to go fast, go alone,
if you want to far, go together.”*

Thank you and we'll see you next month!

