



The Impact of the Synergy Initiative 2000-2019

The Health Care and Health Promotion Synergy Initiative ("Synergy Initiative") provides several years of funding for collaborative projects that target health-related issues in Central Massachusetts with integrated, comprehensive strategies designed to redress disparities by improving systems and promoting healthier lifestyles.

Oral Health - Central MA Oral Health Initiative; Oral Health Initiative of N. Central MA
The Foundation focused nearly \$6 million on the introduction and expansion of dental services for vulnerable populations in the Worcester area and N. Central Massachusetts.

IMPACT: A 50% increase in dentists accepting Medicaid; three regional health centers implemented Advanced Education in General Dentistry; three dental clinics opened in N. Central MA; dental hygiene program was established at Mt. Wachusett Community College.



Economic Self-Sufficiency - A Better Life

The Foundation provided over \$3 million to the Worcester Housing Authority to enable families to achieve economic self-sufficiency and move out of public housing in Worcester.

IMPACT: Advocacy efforts have resulted in support for legislation to allow states that operate self-sufficiency programs in their state properties to operate these programs in their federal properties as well.



Reentry - Worcester Initiative For Supported Reentry (WISR); Wiser Men; Wiser Women

The Foundation provided over \$2.3 million to reduce recidivism of those who had been incarcerated by providing access to social/health services, housing placement and employment readiness/job placement.

IMPACT: Reduced recidivism by 47% three years post-release, saving more than \$375,000 per 100 participants. 96% of participants were housed immediately upon release and 62% became employed post-release.



Adult Chronic Homelessness - Home Again

The Foundation provided over \$2.2 million to end adult chronic homelessness in Worcester using the "housing first" approach.

IMPACT: Worcester was recognized by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as the first city of its size to effectively end chronic adult homelessness. Mass transitioned from sheltering to "housing first." Home Again housed 108 individuals around Worcester.



Behavioral Health in Pre-Schools - Together For Kids

The Foundation's \$1.8 million supported the development of a mental health consultation model to aid the social-emotional development of preschoolers in child care settings with challenging behaviors.

IMPACT: An average of 24 hours of direct service showed children's behavior/developmental skills improved and preschool expulsions were reduced to near zero. State funding for mental health consultation in pre-school settings has totaled more than \$13 million.



Child Abuse - Child Abuse Prevention and Protection Collaborative

The Foundation provided \$2 million for a collaborative effort which advocated for legislative efforts to address shaken baby syndrome and provide for sexual assault nurse examiners.

IMPACT: Mass law now requires that all birthing parents receive education about shaken baby syndrome at the hospital. State funding for sexual assault nurse examiners at child advocacy centers throughout the state has totaled over \$30 million to date.

