

GREATER WORCESTER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HEALTHCARE IN WORCESTER COUNTY

Good health is foundational to a thriving community. Through grantmaking, partnerships and strategic investments, Greater Worcester Community Foundation supports organizations working to expand access to care, improve maternal and infant health, address behavioral health needs and help residents live healthier lives.

Grants

Through its Community Grants program, the Foundation supports organizations improving physical and mental health outcomes across Worcester County. Annual grants help residents access healthcare, behavioral health services, preventative care and community-based supports.

In 2025, the Foundation invested $542,000 to support 19 projects and 20 organizations that foster greater health and wellbeing for Worcester County residents by expanding access to physical and mental health care and support services.

RESPONDING TO EMERGING NEEDS

In 2026, the Foundation received an anonymous $1 million gift in response to federal funding cuts and policy changes. Funding included support for the seven clinics that make up the Worcester Free Care Collaborative, helping protect access to medical, dental and behavioral healthcare for uninsured, underinsured and vulnerable residents.

50TH ANNIVERSARY IMPACT GRANTS

In honor of the Foundation's 50th, Pernet Family Health Service received an impact grant for its Universal Home Visiting program, conducting home visits for newborns and their families.

RECENT INVESTMENTS

$542,000
awarded in 2025 for health & wellbeing

$130,000
for Worcester Free Care Collaborative

$25,000
for Worcester RISE for Health

$250,000
to Pernet Family Health Service

WHY IT MATTERS

In Worcester County...

10%
of babies are born prematurely each year

72
new diabetes cases per 10,000 residents per year

38
opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 residents

13%
of residents live with a disability

Data from Worcester County Insights
worcestercountyinsights.org

Improving health outcomes



WORCESTER RISE FOR HEALTH

Worcester RISE for Health provides culturally responsive healthcare and support services for refugees and immigrants. Foundation grants support maternal health services, behavioral health and wellness programming and a medical-legal partnership that helps clients access critical legal support.

By addressing barriers that can prevent individuals and families from accessing care, RISE helps connect residents with services that support their overall health and wellbeing. Its approach recognizes that factors such as language, immigration status and legal challenges can significantly impact health outcomes.



WORCESTER FREE CARE COLLABORATIVE

The **Collaborative** brings together seven volunteer-driven programs serving uninsured and underinsured residents across Central Massachusetts. A **$130,000 unrestricted grant** from the Foundation helped support the staffing, equipment, supplies and patient resources needed to provide care and respond to emerging needs.

More than 375 Collaborative volunteers provide thousands of medical, dental, behavioral health and specialty care visits each year. Flexible funding allows clinics to adapt quickly to changing community needs and ensure patients can continue accessing care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.



PERNET FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

Each year, about 2,500 babies are born in Worcester, and research shows that early support for new parents can improve maternal and infant health, strengthen child development and reduce child maltreatment.

Through a **$250,000 50th Anniversary Impact Grant**, the Foundation is helping expand Pernet's **Universal Home Visiting** program for families with newborns.

By making the program universal, more families will receive support and connections to community resources during one of the most important transitions in their lives.

Additional resources

Worcester County Insights

For health and wellbeing indicators for Worcester County's sixty municipalities, visit **www.worcestercountyinsights.org**.



Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Developed by the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester, the Community Health Improvement Plan is a regional strategic plan for addressing health disparities and improving community health over a five year period.



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Contact

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