

Community Connections

Beth Israel Lahey Health 
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center

April 2024

[Chinese Simplified \(中文简体字\)](#)
[Chinese Traditional \(中文繁體字\)](#)

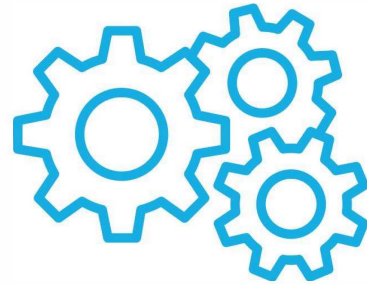
[Haitian Creole \(Kreyòl Ayisyen\)](#)
[Russian \(русский\)](#)

[Cape Verde \(Cabo Verde\)](#)
[Portuguese \(Português\)](#)

[Spanish \(Español\)](#)
[Vietnamese \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

Grantee Collective Impact Summary

BIDMC is excited to share the overarching evaluation findings for the first cohort of Boston grantees. This [executive summary](#), prepared by our independent evaluator Health Resources in Action (HRiA), highlights the demographics of participants reached, the number of services delivered, and the impact achieved across the three priority areas of housing affordability, jobs and financial security, and behavioral health.



The Boston Cohort 1 grantees:

- Reached a total of 2,850 individuals (90.7% identified as racially and ethnically diverse).
- Hired 84 staff and trained 588 staff and volunteers.
- Made progress towards housing affordability policy change, including a budget increase and administrative changes to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.
- Achieved significant improvements in participants' positive financial habits and behaviors.
- Achieved improved or stabilized mental health symptoms and increased likelihood of seeking help for mental health symptoms.

See the [detailed report](#) for more information about the impact the grantees made.

BIDMC Community Benefits and Community Relations would like to thank the Boston Cohort 1 grantees, HRiA, the BIDMC Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC), BIDMC Allocation Committee, and BIDMC Board of Trustees and senior leadership team for their guidance, commitment, and support of this work.

Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative Updates

Healthy Bowdoin Geneva and We're Here for You: Fenway/Kenmore were the first two collectives funded through the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. They completed implementation of their community-driven projects in February 2024.

We're Here for You: Fenway/Kenmore designed and implemented a project with three pillars:

- [Health Care Access](#) led by Fenway Health to increase direct outreach to Fenway/Kenmore residents to connect them with its services.
- [Financial Stability](#) led by Fenway CDC to provide financial case management and financial literacy coaching to residents.
- [Community Leadership](#) led by Fenway Cares to build and strengthen capacity and sustainability of their food distribution program by training 24 residents as leaders and providing them with more



formalizing volunteering and leadership infrastructure (including stipends) and team building events.

Key Outcomes:

- Increased financial well-being: 86% of residents using financial coaching and case management reported increased financial well-being by the end of their services.
- Developed community leadership: Even after the training and stipends have ended, many Resident Leaders continue to volunteer or actively recruit their neighbors to volunteer. Several have demonstrated leadership in the neighborhood since the project ended.
- Created authentic relationships between residents and organizations, fostering a sense of investment and collaboration in the neighborhood. Collective members observed networking, information exchange, and new collaborations forming across Resident Leaders throughout the program and with organizations. All 24 of the Resident Leaders felt more connected to their neighborhood as a result of participating in the training.

[Healthy Bowdoin Geneva](#) designed and implemented a project with the goal of improving community and social capital. The three aspects of this project were building community leadership infrastructure, bridging social ties, and resource sharing.

Key Outcomes:

- Building community leadership infrastructure: The Collective achieved its goal of creating a community leadership infrastructure for this project by hiring a Project Coordinator and establishing a Collective Steering Committee. Several of the partnerships developed through the grant will continue.
- Bridging social ties: The Collective held a neighborhood-wide Health Fair in 2024 and distributed 10 mini-grants to support community events and programs. The Collective also worked to improve its internal dynamics and strengthen relationships across its members.
- Resource sharing: The Collective developed and disseminated a community [Resource Guide](#) in multiple languages and a [website](#) containing a dynamic community events calendar. Through the Collective, residents, service providers, and community leaders gained awareness of resources available to Bowdoin Geneva residents.

Beyond the planned projects, one of the most important outcomes of the Collectives was increased connection and collaboration across community members and organizations.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH) is proud to once again sponsor the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#). Now in its 28th year, the theme for this year's walk is Cultivating Cycles for Peace, with the aim to build nonviolent communities for our children and future generations. The event supports the work of the Peace Institute to provide support, tools, education and assistance for families and communities impacted by violence, murder, trauma, grief and loss. [Team BILH](#) is looking forward to walking again this year.



Healthcare Resource Guide for Newly Arrived Families

In response to the many newly arriving families coming to Massachusetts, Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH) compiled a resource guide to help those new to the healthcare system, with information on:

- What to expect at medical visits
- Primary and specialty care definitions
- Mental health and substance use care
- Medications/vaccines
- Insurance/Benefits overview (MassHealth, WIC, and DTA)




Please feel free to distribute this resource to your constituents and other organizations serving newly arrived families.

Download the guide: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Haitian Creole](#) | [Portuguese](#)


Healthcare in Massachusetts: Important Information for Your First Few Months

Welcome to Massachusetts! This guide has useful information about medical care and assistance that you can receive.

Important Helpful Hints

-  Dial 911 on your mobile phone or landline phone if you are having a medical emergency. A medical emergency is a serious injury or illness that is an immediate risk to a person's life or long-term health.
-  Water from the tap/faucet is safe to drink in Massachusetts. There is no need to boil water or buy bottled water.
-  To stay healthy, wash your hands often.

Safety and Domestic Violence

-  Massachusetts has resources for people who do not feel safe in their relationship or where they are staying. You can get help ANYTIME (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) by calling the free Domestic Violence SafeLink at 877-785-2020.
- Help is available in over 130 languages, including Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Community Connections

You may have noticed that this newsletter is now called Community Connections. While we will continue to provide regular updates about the Community-based Health Initiative investments and impact, we are broadening the scope of the newsletter to share other BIDMC programs and events in the community.

Contact Us

Stay in Touch

Stay tuned for regular updates about BIDMC's Community-based Health Initiative. For more information, visit us at bidmc.org/chi. For questions, please email NIBCHI@bidmc.harvard.edu.

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