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Westford Health Department Releases Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan

Westford, MA – August 7, 2025 – The Westford Health Department has released the Westford Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These comprehensive reports, now available on the department’s website, provide an in-depth look at the health status of Westford and outline strategic initiatives to address community health needs from 2023 through 2028.

In developing the CHA and CHIP, the Westford Health Department partnered with local organizations and residents through the Westford Community Health Partnership. This group included representatives from the health department, schools, coalitions, and community members, who worked together to identify and prioritize the most pressing health issues in town.

Along with the recently completed 2025-2029 Westford Strategic Plan, the CHA and CHIP provide a roadmap for advancing health priorities, aligning resources, and addressing the evolving needs of the Westford community. The Strategic Plan also supports the department’s work toward national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation and was developed to reflect Westford’s CHA-CHIP, the Westford Health Department’s Workforce Development Plan, community stakeholder input, and the Town of Westford’s Strategic Plan. PHAB accreditation recognizes health departments that meet high standards for quality, performance, and continuous improvement.

“The CHA and CHIP provide a roadmap for addressing the critical health challenges in our community,” said Rae Dick, Health Director of the Westford Health Department. “Through collaboration and data-driven strategies, we can better meet the needs of our residents and improve health outcomes across Westford.”

Health Priorities Identified in the CHA

The assessment identified the following priority areas:

- Mental health
- Substance use
- Chronic disease and wellness
- Environmental health
- Infectious diseases

The CHA draws from multiple sources, including surveys conducted by the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, input from local stakeholders, and publicly available health data. These findings highlight key trends and disparities in Westford, providing the foundation for the CHIP.

Focus of the CHIP

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):

- Identifies measurable goals and objectives.
- Aims to improve mental health and reduce substance use.
- Promotes chronic disease prevention and healthy living.
- Strengthens environmental health protections.
- Supports prevention and response to infectious diseases.

The CHIP serves as a framework for local organizations and community members to align their efforts and resources toward a shared vision of better health for all Westford residents.

Accessing the Reports

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to review the reports and take part in ongoing community health efforts. Both the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan are available online at the [Westford Health Department's Website](#).

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