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way

Trainings & Info Sessions:

Interested in learning more? Contact the Mayor's Health Line to schedule an on-site HelpSteps training & information session.

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Feedback & Questions?

Let us know about Your experience!

Mayor's Health Line
617-534-5050
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Partnering Towards Success



The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) provides accommodations for over 58,000 Boston residents. Rachel Goodman, Director of Community Services, Center for Community Engagement & Civil Rights at BHA, focuses on connecting BHA residents with a wide range of services. By virtue of this goal, Rachel and her colleagues were able to make the Boston Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH): PHH project achievable.

REACH is committed to addressing health inequities among BHA residents through initiatives including increasing healthy affordable food access and making sustainable clinical-community linkages. This partnership grew out of a 14+ year partnership between the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Boston Housing Authority, Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH), and the Community Committee. Serving as the Director of REACH at BPHC, Aileen Shen ensures that the programs work toward providing Boston residents with access to affordable and healthy food, stronger linkages between community health and social services, and accessibility to smoke-free housing.

In an effort to enhance the interconnection between health, social services, and Boston Residents, REACH provided funding to help support HelpSteps. In doing so, over 100 Local tenant organizations, community leaders, and health center employees were introduced to HelpSteps. It was found that "people were really excited about having the opportunity not only to use and learn about HelpSteps, but also to be able to share it with other people looking for resources," says Rachel. This free web and mobile-based system, effortlessly links individuals to health and human services, serving as a referral system for families and individuals. Enthusiasm and keen interest are a couple of the emotions expressed at the trainings. The overall goal of connecting a large cohort of Boston residents to more affordable, quality resources is well on its way to being fully realized.



Boston Children's Hospital
Until every child is well™



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