

# MPHA POLICY AGENDA, 2015-2016

## Overarching Themes

Integrating Health into all Policies | Combatting Institutional Racism | Reducing Poverty

### Healthy Eating and Active Living

*Ensuring that all communities have access to healthy affordable food, safe places for physical activity, and a healthy built environment*

- Secure financing for the Massachusetts Food Trust Program
- Support state Mass in Motion funding
- Implement the Complete Streets Certification Program
- Pass legislation to encourage shared use of school recreational facilities
- Protect access to SNAP benefits
- Establish statewide Healthy Incentives Program to provide a premium benefit to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries
- Support adequate transportation revenue and funding for public and active transportation

### Housing and Family Stability

*Providing access to healthy, stable and affordable housing for all families*

- Increase funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
- Adopt a comprehensive approach to reduce homelessness
- Reform state zoning and planning statutes to align with healthy land use objectives
- Reduce barriers and create incentives for communities to advance walkable, mixed-used districts and build multi-family housing, especially near transit hubs

## Violence Prevention

*Promoting safe streets, homes, and schools that support positive youth development and thriving families*

- Increase funding for Department of Public Health youth violence prevention and intervention programs
- Implement the Safe and Supportive Schools Framework
- Support resources for community-based sexual assault and domestic violence programs

## Connecting Community Health & Clinical Care

*Expanding the reach of the health care system beyond the clinic walls by focusing on the wellbeing of patients, families, and neighborhoods*

- Support rollout of the Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program
- Include community-based prevention in the formation of alternative payment methodologies
- Adopt Medicaid state plan amendment to reimburse for community based prevention, including CHW services
- Lay the foundation for the re-authorization of the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund

## Essential Public Health Services

*Strengthening the ability of state and local health departments to provide essential services such as communicable disease control and food safety*

- Support state funding for core Department of Public Health infrastructure for regulatory, inspectional, lab, and data services
- Establish legislative study commission to develop recommendations on local public health funding and regionalization
- Pass legislation to protect volunteers working under the direction of local health authorities

## Cross-Cutting Priorities

- Establish an Office of Health Equity within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit