

**Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and GE Foundation Announce  
SUSTAIN Communities Cohort 2 Grant Funding Opportunity & Informational Webinar**

***Background:***

Over the last 15 years Massachusetts has experienced a dramatic increase in fatal opioid-related overdoses. During 2016, approximately 2,000 individuals, their families, and the communities they live in were impacted by a fatal overdose. This figure translates to nearly 6 fatalities each day in Massachusetts. The face of who is experiencing fatal overdose is quickly changing and spreading across many age groups. Fatal overdose is increasingly impacting younger populations between ages 18-35, with young women experiencing among the highest increases in fatal overdose rates. With these changing demographics come changing trends, including the increasing number of young women needing treatment during and after pregnancy and the associated rise in number of substance exposed newborns. Pervasive fatal overdose rates coupled with other accompanying health issues like HCV transmission, injection site infections, osteomyelitis, and endocarditis have made provision of compassionate substance use treatment embedded within primary health care more imperative than ever.

***A Response:***

As a part of a continuing funding commitment by the GE Foundation, with support from Partners Healthcare, the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers will make grants available to support centers in building recovery-informed environments for patients with substance use disorders. This, the second funding cohort of the Substance Use Support & Technical Assistance IN Communities (SUSTAIN Communities) initiative strives to increase the capacity of community health centers to address substance use disorders in the communities they serve.

Through a competitive application process, ten (10) community health centers will be selected to participate in the SUSTAIN Communities capacity building initiative over the course of 10 – 12 months. The selected CHCs receiving an award will participate in five main components of the grant:

- A two-day, SUSTAIN Communities grant kick-off event slated for February 2018,
- Physician-led, site specific, peer mentoring for implementing addiction services,
- Participation in BMC Project ECHO® addiction case-based team learning and access to additional training and TA to increase capacity to address substance use disorders,
- Development and/or enhancement of champions team and multi-disciplinary risk rounds,
- Evaluation and reporting on the impact of the grant.

Selected community health centers will receive a \$50,000 stipend to support engagement in this initiative.

***RFR Details:***

The accompanying RFR and application documents detail the following about the SUSTAIN Communities grant opportunity:

- Eligibility criteria, explanation of each of the grant components and expectations, information about submitting an application
- A **SUSTAIN Communities Cohort 2 Informational Webinar**, detailing this grant opportunity will be held on **Tuesday, November 28, 2017, from 12:30-1:30p**. You can access the webinar via this link: <https://communityhealth.adobeconnect.com/sustain2/>
- **Completed applications** (SUSTAIN Cohort 2 - Attachment A) **must be sent by Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, to Jim Hiatt at: [jhiatt@massleague.org](mailto:jhiatt@massleague.org).