



The Health Equity Compact

Taking Bold Action Towards Health Equity

Centering Health Equity Here in Central Mass

March 22, 2023

Who We Are

The Health Equity Compact (the “Compact”) is a group of **over 65 Black, Latinx and leaders of color** who aim to advance health equity together in Massachusetts.

Compact members are high-level executives and experts from a diverse set of health, business, labor, and philanthropic organizations, including hospitals, health centers, payers, academic institutions, and public health. We bring our **lived experience**, **expertise**, and **urgency** to our work to advance health equity.

Purpose

Our vision is the elimination of systemic barriers and creation of new structures and processes that will lead to equitable healthcare and health outcomes for all in Massachusetts.

Our mission is to realize bold statewide policy and institutional practice changes that center racial justice and health equity.

Allison Bryant Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School Senior Medical Director for Health Equity, MGB		Assaad Sayah President and CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance		Bisola Ojikutu Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission		Cain Hayes President/CEO, Point32 Health		Charles Anderson President/CEO, Dimock		Christopher Lathan Chief Clinical Access & Equity Officer, Dana Farber		Claire Cooper VP of Public Policy & Operations, MA Business Roundtable		Claire-Cecile Pierre Associate CMO, VP Community Health, Brigham and Women's	
Damón Chaplin Public Health Director, New Bedford Health Department		David Williams Professor, Harvard School of Public Health		Deborah Enos Professional Advisor and Board Member/ Senior Executive		Denise De Las Nueces CMO, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program		Eduardo da Silva Haddad President of Medical Staff, Lawrence General Hospital		Elsie Taveras Chief Community Health Equity Officer, MGB		Filaine Deronnette Vice President-at-Large, 1199SEIU, United Healthcare Workers East		Frank Robinson Vice President, Public Health & Community Relations at Baystate Health	
Frederica Williams President & CEO, Whittier Street Health Center		Greg Wilmot President/CEO, East Boston NHC		Guale Valdez President/CEO, Mattapan Community Health Center		Guy Fish President & CEO, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center		Jeffrey Sanchez Instructor, Harvard T.H. Chan SPH Principal of Sanchez Strategies		Joan Y. Reede Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School		Jose de la Rosa Co-Founder/CEO at Guardian Healthcare		Joseph Betancourt President, The Commonwealth Fund	
Juan F. Lopera Chief DEI Officer, BILH		Kenn Turner President and CEO, MA Life Sciences Center		Kevin Churchwell President/CEO, Boston Children's Hospital		Kiame Mahanlah CEO, Lynn Community Health Center		Kizzmekia S. Corbett Assistant Professor, Harvard School of Public Health		Lauren Powell , VP, Health Equity & Community Wellness, Takeda Pharmaceuticals		Lee Pelton CEO/President, The Boston Foundation		Louis Brady CEO, Family Health Center of Worcester	
Lumas Joseph Helaire Asst Dean, PHM and Health Equity Education at Harvard T.H. Chan Sph		Magnolia Contreras Vice President, Community Health at DFCH		Makeeba McCreary Vice President, New Commonwealth Social and Justice Fund		Manny Lopes EVP, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA		Marcelo Suárez-Orozco Chancellor, UMass Boston		Marty Martinez CEO, Reach Out and Read		Michael Curry President/CEO, Mass League of CHCs		Myechia Minter-Jordan President/CEO, CareQuest	
Michelle Williams Dean of the Faculty, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health		Nancy Norman Medical Director of Integration, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership		Pablo Hernandez CMO, Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center		Renée Landers Professor of Law/ Faculty Director, Suffolk University		Robert Higgins President, Brigham and Women's, Executive VP, Mass General Brigham		Ron Coursey VP FQHCs & Public Health, Quest Diagnostics		Rosa Colon-Kolacko Chief DEI Officer, Tufts Medicine		Sandra Cotterell CEO, Codman Square Health Center	
Shana Sullivan Strategic Planning & Performance Director, UniCare		Shari Nethersole Executive Director for Community Health, Boston Children's Hospital		Sheila Och Chief Engagement and Equity Office, Lowell Community Health Center		<div>  <div> Black and Latinx Leaders Advancing Health Equity Together </div> </div>			Stan McLaren President/CEO, Carney Hospital		Tania M. Barber President/CEO Caring Health Center		Thea James Associate CMO, Boston Medical Center		

Our Policy Priorities

The Compact is working to advance state policy change in six priority areas:

1. Governance
2. Measurement and Accountability
3. Workforce
4. Healthcare Payment and Delivery Reform
5. Coverage and Access
6. Social Determinants of Health

An Act to Advance Health Equity

H.1250 / S.799

Lead Sponsors:
Rep. Bud Williams
Rep. Judith Garcia
Sen. Pavel Payano
Sen. Liz Miranda

An Act to Advance Health Equity

This legislation aims to advance systemic policy changes that will support the fair and just opportunity for all residents of the Commonwealth to live healthy lives. It broadens and strengthens the state's foundation to advance health equity in the following ways:

Prioritize Equity
in State
Government

Standardize and
Report on Data to
Advance Health Equity

Improve
Access and
Quality of Care

Prioritize Equity in State Government

- Create a new cabinet-level **Executive Office of Equity**, to be led by a Secretary of Equity
- **Diversify gender and racial and ethnic composition** within leadership of key state agencies, boards, and commissions
- **Invest in** community-defined and led efforts to build **healthier communities** by addressing the root causes of inequities

Standardize and Report on Data to Advance Health Equity

- Require the use of **standardized health equity data metrics** across provider and payer organizations and new accountability mechanisms for reporting the data
- Direct state agencies to **report publicly on data** to identify disparities and track progress on healthcare equity and social drivers of health in the Commonwealth

Improve Access & Quality of Care

- Provide **full MassHealth coverage** for all people who are otherwise eligible, regardless of immigration status, including young people
- Address increasing cost burden of certain **medications for chronic conditions** that disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income communities
- Require **reimbursement parity for telehealth services** for primary care and chronic disease management
- Authorize a **career ladder program for diverse workers** who reflect the communities they serve in safety net hospitals and other community providers
- Require provider organizations to **meet or exceed national standards** for culturally and linguistically appropriate services and multicultural health care

Budget Priorities

- Address the **workforce crisis**
 - Strengthen the healthcare workforce pipeline
 - Create a supportive work environment
 - Fund provider incentives and higher compensation
- Support bold & strategic efforts to advance **social determinants of health**, including a fund for **Health Equity Zones**
- Increase funds to **safety net and community-based providers**
- Provide **full MassHealth coverage** for all people who are otherwise eligible, regardless of immigration status, including young people

Compact Activities

- Hold **health equity community engagement forums** to raise support in communities across Massachusetts and inform our work
- Collaborate with the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation to develop an **Economic Cost of Health Inequities Report**
- Commission a health equity **public opinion poll** with MassINC
- Host a **Health Equity Trends Summit** in June

Thank you!

Contact

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<https://healthequitycompact.org/>