

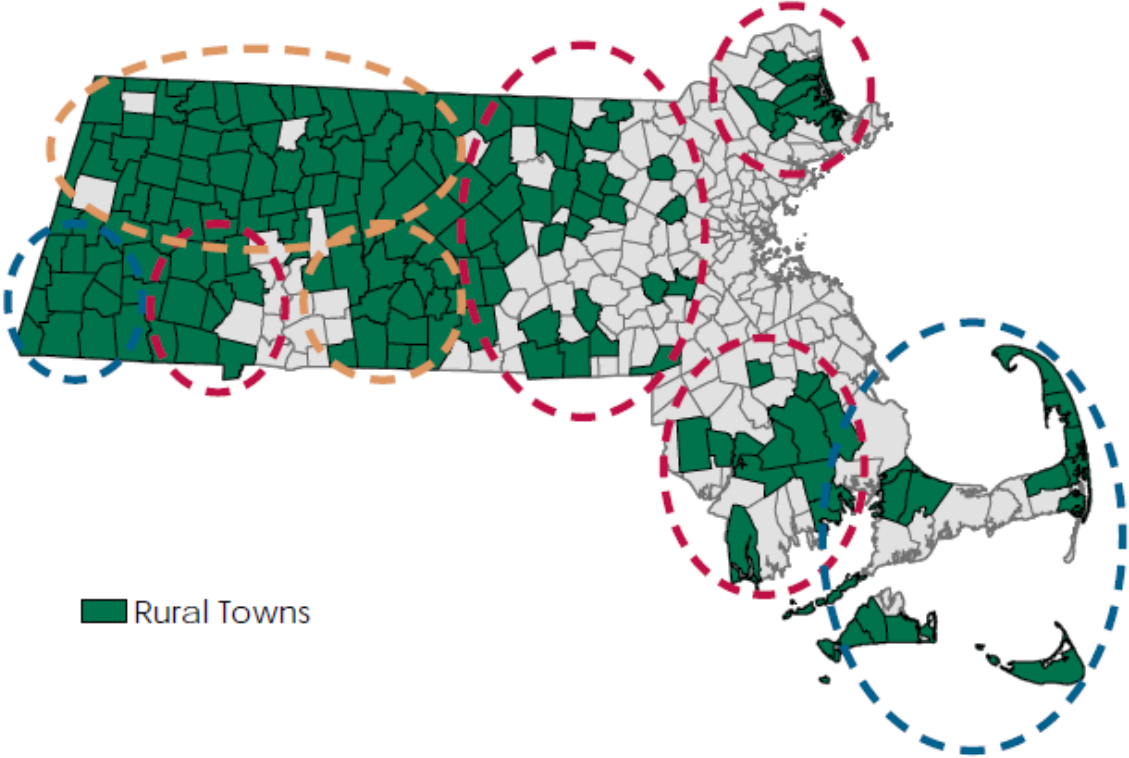


# Behavioral Health Integration into Primary Care Practice in Western MA

By Megan Hansen, Carly Herbert, Ryan Payne, Bronwyn Wada-Gill

# Defining Rural MA

THREE TYPOLOGIES OF RURAL MASSACHUSETTS

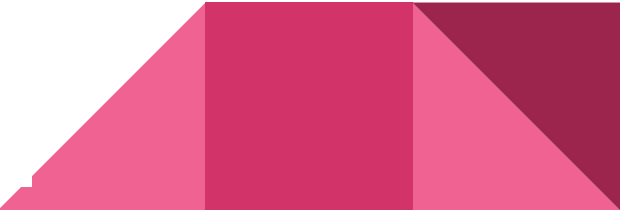


## Three Categories of Rural Areas:

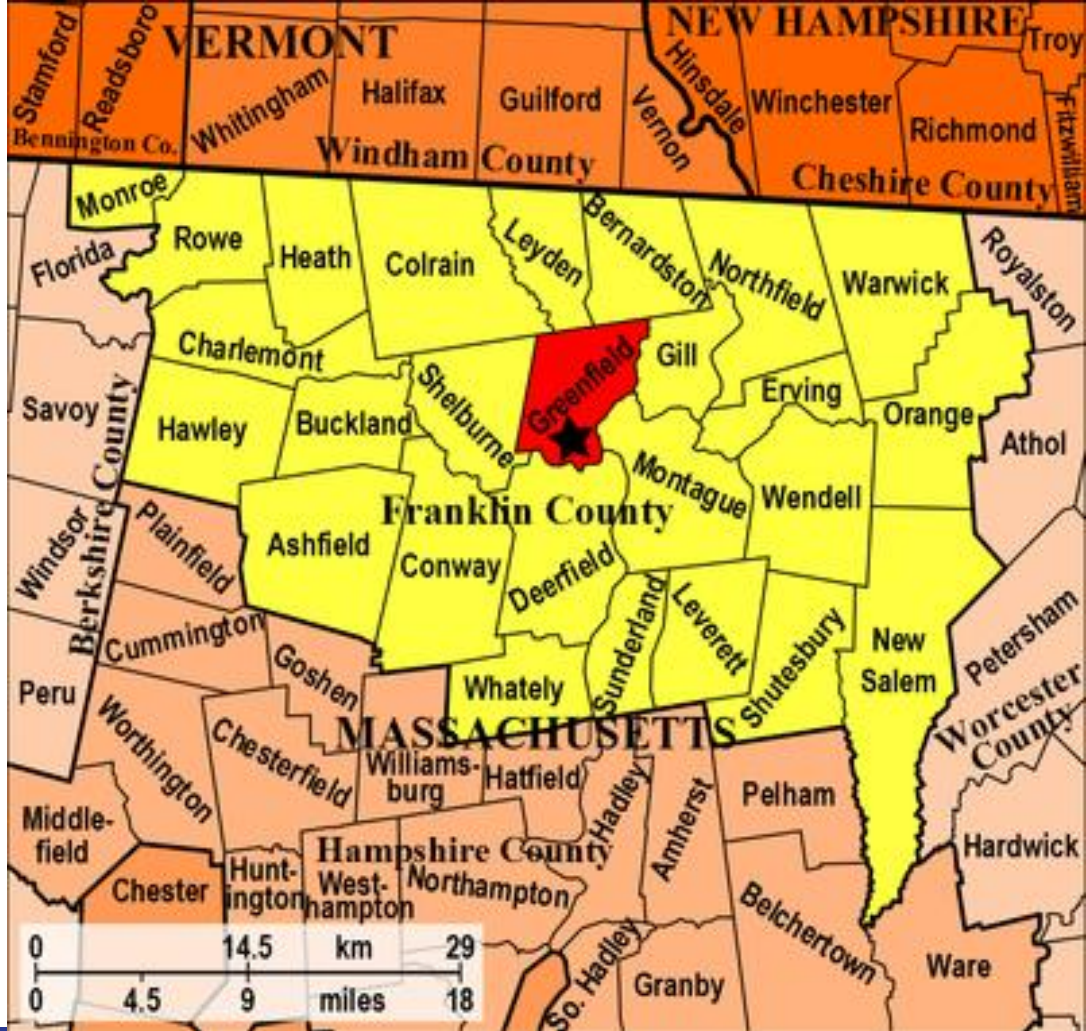
**Red:** Suburb Communities

**Blue:** Concentration of Second Homes

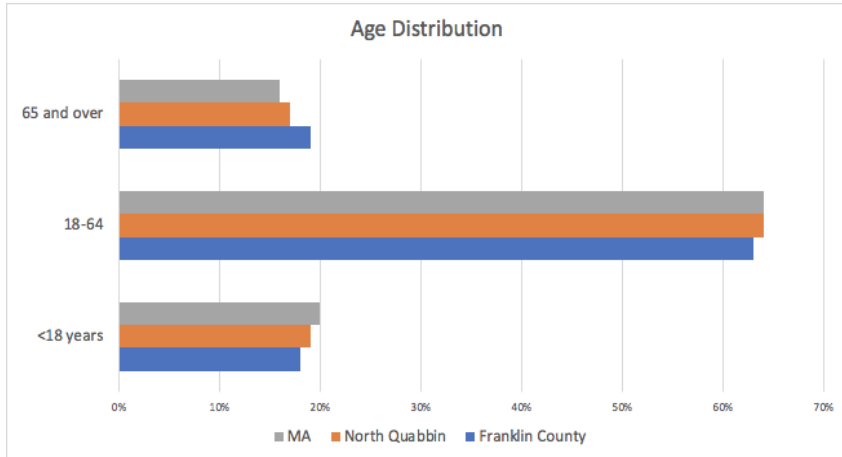
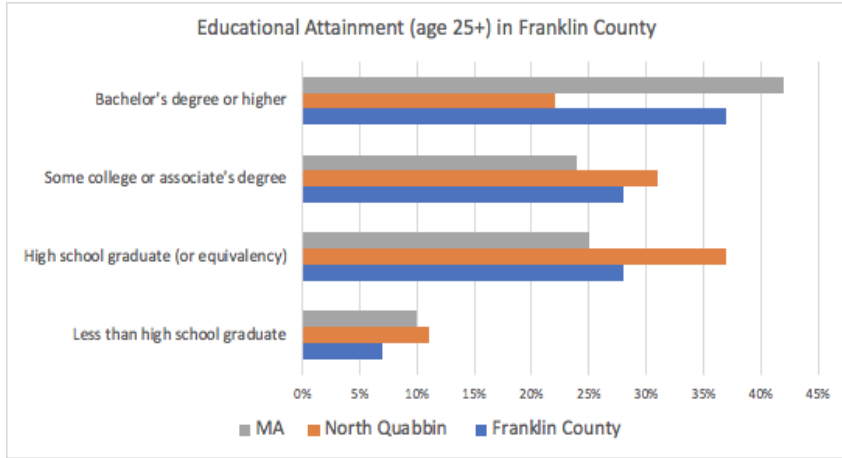
**Orange:** Areas of Economic Distress



# Franklin County and North Quabbin Region



# Demographics



Franklin County has had the lowest average earnings per job since 2002

Average Income Per Job in 2017:

Franklin County: **\$44,635**

Massachusetts: **\$73,246**

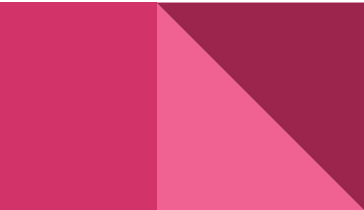
Nation: **\$60,660**

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# Population to Provider Ratio Offers an Incomplete Picture

## Counseling/Therapy for Adults

<b>Population to Provider Ratio</b>		
	<i>Franklin County</i>	<i>MA</i>
<i>Primary Care</i>	1280 : 1	960 : 1
<i>Mental Health Providers</i>	130 : 1	180 : 1



## Baystate Franklin Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment 2019 Summary of Priorities

### Franklin County/North Quabbin Priority Social & Economic Factors that Impact Health

Education    Housing Needs    Built Environment: Access to food, activity, transportation and broadband    Social Environment    Lack of Resources to Meet Basic Needs    Violence and Trauma

### Franklin County/North Quabbin Priority Barriers To Accessing Quality Health Care

Health Literacy And Language Barriers    Insurance Related Challenges    Need For Culturally Sensitive Care    Lack of Transportation    Limited Availability of Providers    Lack of Care Coordination

### Franklin County/North Quabbin Priority Health Conditions & Behaviors

Chronic Disease  
*(obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory disease, cancer)*

Mental Health & Substance Use

Infant and Perinatal Health

### Franklin County/North Quabbin Priority Populations

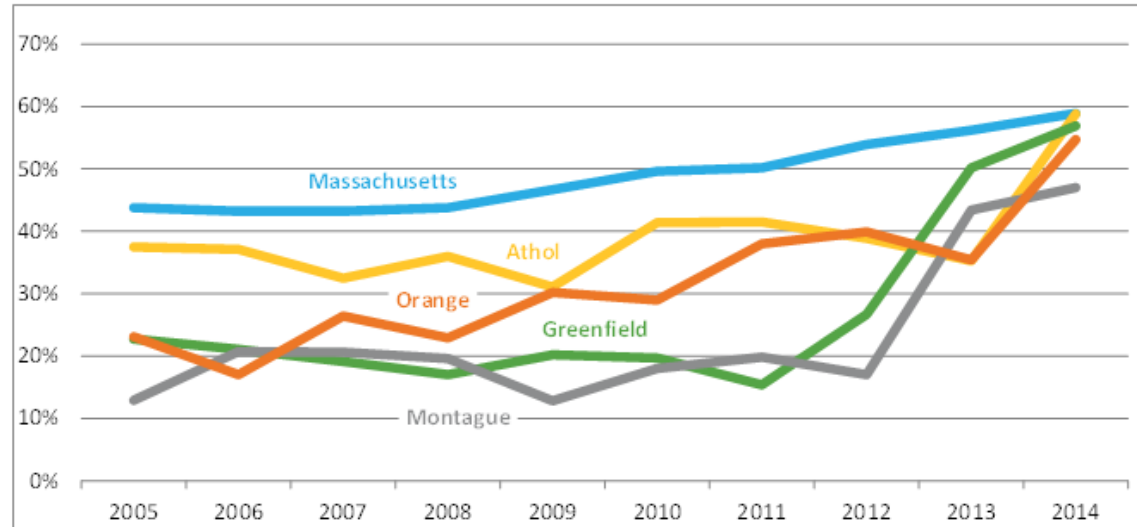
Local residents with incomes < 300% of federal poverty level    People reentering the community after incarceration  
Black and Latino residents of Franklin County and North Quabbin    Transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people  
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth    Older adults    Children who have experienced trauma

# Opioid Crisis in Western Massachusetts

## In Massachusetts in 2018:

- ❑ Overdose related Deaths
  - ❑ Age 15-24: 27%
  - ❑ Age 25-34: 48%
  - ❑ Age 35-44: 35%
- ❑ 89% of opioid overdose deaths (+) for **fentanyl**
- ❑ Franklin County has a **higher rate of fatal opioid overdoses than Boston**

Trends in percent of admissions to substance use disorder treatment with opioids as primary substance of use

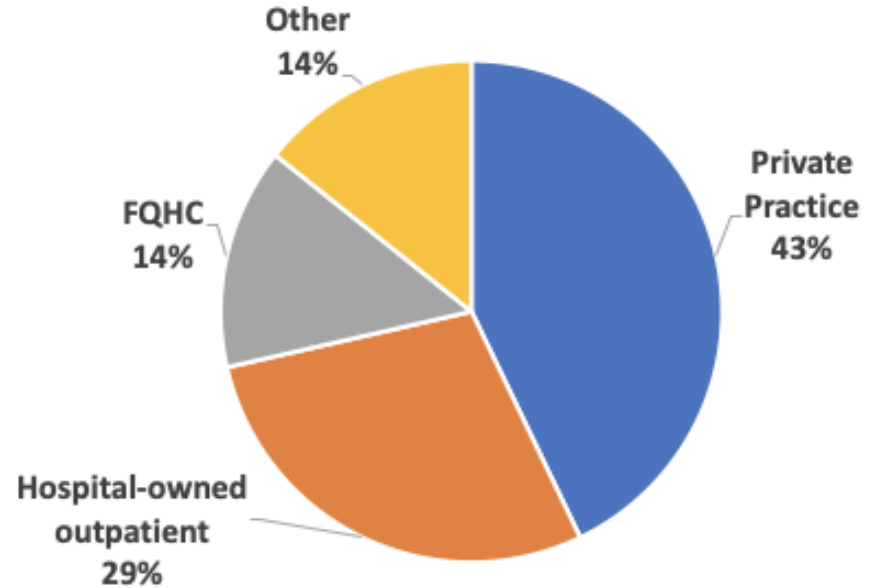


Source: Massachusetts Department of Health, 2005 - 2014

## Our Project:

- ❑ Goal: Understand **Behavioral health integration (BHI)** into primary care practices in Western MA
- ❑ 2 weeks:
  - ❑ Surveyed: **15 primary care practices**
  - ❑ **11 Community Meetings**

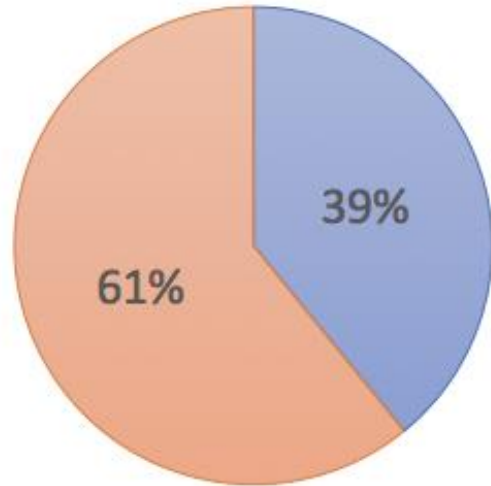
## Who did we survey?





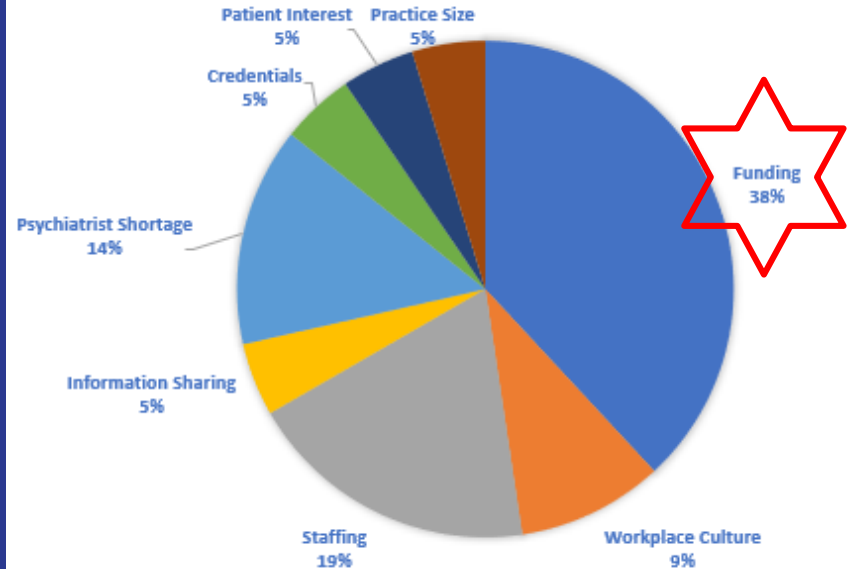
# Highlighted Findings from Providers and Practices:

How many practices are employing additional behavioral health staff?

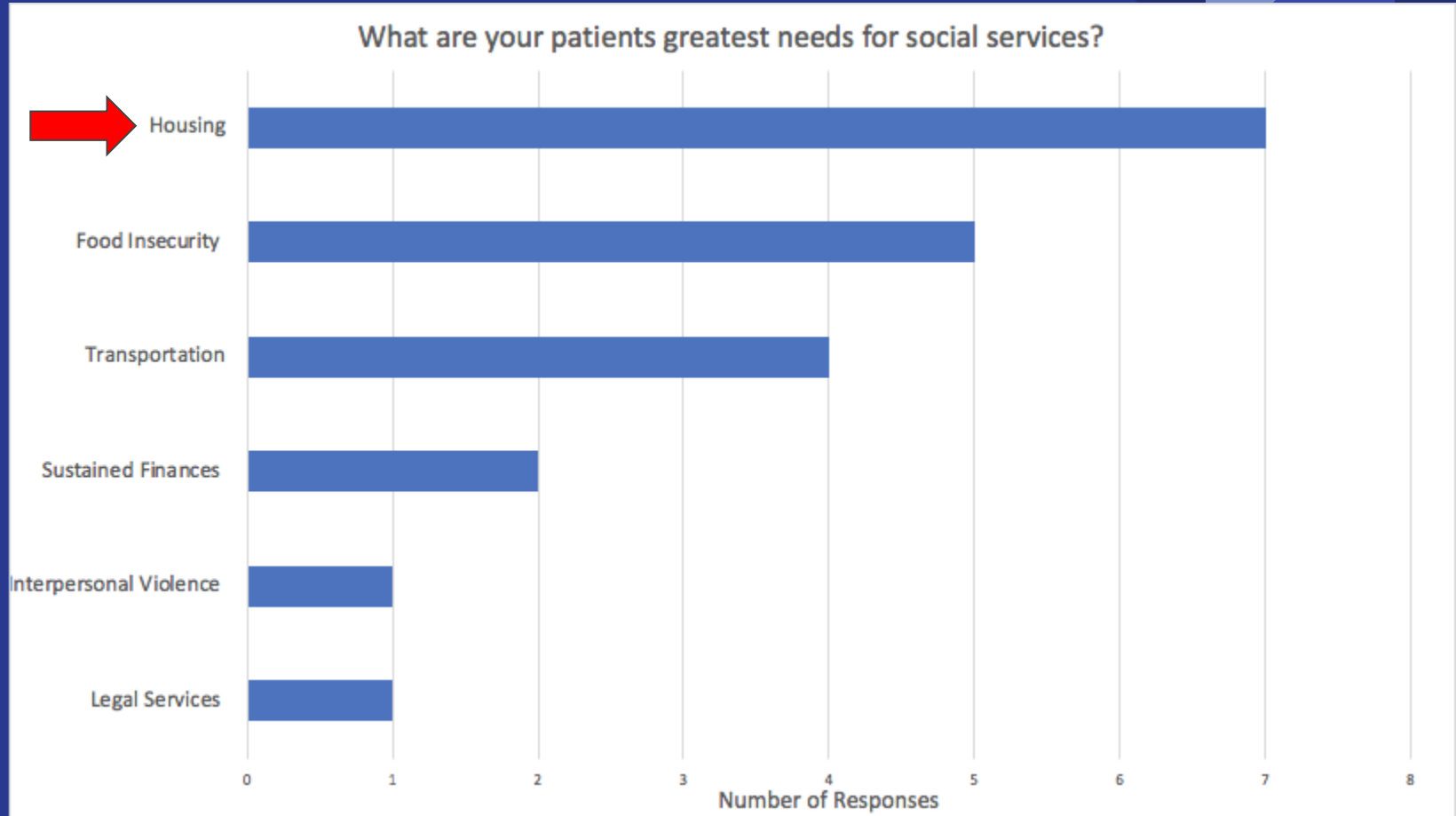


■ Inside Practice    ■ Outside Referrals

What are the main challenges to integrating behavioral health care at this time?



# Highlighted Findings from Providers and Practices:



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Housing Needs

Built Environment: Access to food, activity, transportation and broadband

Social Environment

Lack of Resources to Meet Basic Needs

Violence and Trauma

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Health Literacy And Language Barriers

Insurance Related Challenges

Lack of Transportation

Lack of Care Coordination

Need For Culturally Sensitive Care

Limited Availability of Providers

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Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth

Older adults

Children who have experienced trauma

# Housing Needs in Franklin County

Why can't you find a home in Greenfield?



- ❑ Department of Housing and Urban Development defines **cost burdened as >30% income for housing**
- ❑ Cost Burdened Status of Franklin County (2018)
  - ❑ 27% homeowners
  - ❑ 48% of renters
  - ❑ 15% households severely cost burdened

# Why is stable housing an important factor in recovery?

**“We see trauma and retraumatization. When you can’t get housing, that’s traumatizing... It’s a generational problem for most of our clients.”**

~ (Key informant interview, Franklin County house of Corrections Reentry Team)



# What are the obstacles to housing in Franklin County?

- Homelessness
- Shortages of...
  - Dignified Housing
  - Sober Housing
  - Affordable Housing



# Action Items:

## For the Providers:

1. Funding for BHI expansion
2. Financial Incentives
  - a. “Brain Gain”
3. Expansion of psychiatric training in Primary Care Tracks
  - a. Dr. Robert Baldor

## For the Community:

1. An Act Promoting Fair Housing By Preventing Discrimination Against Affordable Housing: H.1344 and S. 781





# An Act Promoting Fair Housing By Preventing Discrimination Against Affordable Housing: H.1344 and S.781

1. Prevents discriminatory land use practices based on:
  - a. **Income**
  - b. **Families with children**
  - c. **Race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status, disability**
2. We propose an amendment to also prohibit discrimination against people with a public record of SUD





## We would like to thank the following people and organizations:

UMass Medical School

Opioid Task Force

Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Recovery Learning Center, The Recovery Project, Cheryl Pascucci, CSO, CHCFC, Communities that Care

Phoebe Walker and FRCOG

Julie Thompson

All survey respondents



# Bibliography

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"Affordable Housing ." *HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*,  
[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/affordablehousing/](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/).

CHNA 2019