

## Step 2: Team up with local partners to integrate public health data into your MVP process.

*Section 2 of this toolkit provides suggestions for project partners who can contribute expertise on healthcare, public health, or systems that interact with climate change impacts and public health in your community. Ideally, these partners are engaged during the MVP planning process, but can also be brought into the development stages of an MVP Action Grant.*

**Health Partners: Who in your community could provide expertise on the public health needs and vulnerabilities in your community? These experts may include:**

- Public Health Director/ Local Board of Health
- Healthcare professionals who work at a variety of facilities (i.e., hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, outpatient surgical centers, clinics, medical offices, urgent care facilities, dialysis centers)
- Independent healthcare professionals (i.e., home healthcare workers)
- Mental health professionals
- Non-profits or community-based organizations with a focus on public health and/or healthcare
- Emergency and/or facility managers at healthcare facilities
- Healthcare staff and other community stakeholders serving on a Community Benefits Committee at a local non-profit hospital
- Public health and/or healthcare faculty and researchers at nearby higher education institutions
- Social advocacy groups
- Public Housing Authority
- Food bank/pantry volunteers or staff
- Farmers and food system workers
- Regional Planning Agencies
- Individuals with health needs or vulnerabilities that are particularly sensitive to climate impacts (i.e., those with asthma)



*Healthcare professionals are examples of experts who may have valuable insights into the health needs specific to your community exacerbated by climate change impacts. Source: Mass.gov.*

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*There are many community health partners who can play a role in climate adaptation. Source: US CDC (2019).*

# CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Working together, communities can prepare for and respond to the critical health effects of our changing climate. Here are just a few examples of the diverse partners that play a role.

## MEDIA / METEOROLOGISTS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Report on the health impacts in your community
- Report extreme weather alerts with recommended protective actions
- Provide information on available community assistance, such as evacuation shelters and cooling centers

## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### HOW THEY HELP

- Monitor health trends to identify new and emerging threats
- Identify at-risk groups and mobilize community partners
- Provide information on available community assistance
- Provide extreme weather and air pollution alerts with recommended protective actions
- Work with state health department to prepare

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Educate patients about increased risks and protective actions
- Develop emergency response plans for extreme weather

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### HOW THEY HELP

- Develop emergency response plans for extreme weather
- Cool urban areas by adding heat-reflective surfaces and planting trees
- Develop and implement long-term adaptation plans
- Review building standards for increased resiliency
- Work with state government to prepare

## COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Provide emergency shelter and cooling centers
- Provide transportation to emergency shelters
- Distribute information on community assistance
- Provide counseling after extreme weather events

## SCHOOLS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Provide emergency shelter and cooling centers
- Safeguard student athletes during extreme heat
- Provide counseling after extreme weather events
- Integrate asthma education and support

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**Community partners: Who in your community could provide expertise on a sector that supports public health in your community? These experts may include:**

- Utility companies
- Wastewater treatment professionals
- Sewer/septic professionals
- Department of Public Works staff
- Drinking water professionals
  - ⇒ Local water district
  - ⇒ Municipal water department
  - ⇒ **MWRA**
- Pest control experts
- Landscape professionals
- Local Parks Department staff
- Regional Transit Authorities
- Local Planning Department staff, including transportation and economic planners
- Chemical safety/hazardous waste disposal professionals
  - ⇒ MassDEP Regional **Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup**
  - ⇒ Massachusetts **Office of Technical Assistance**
- Private companies that produce hazardous materials/waste



*There are many people in our communities who are experts in fields that impact public health, such as public utilities. Source: Mass.gov.*

### MVP Partnership Spotlight: Plymouth and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital

#### You are invited!

#### Climate-Ready Healthy Plymouth Community Resilience Building Workshop

**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 (March 19, 2020 Snow date)

**Location:** Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Conference Room, 275 Sandwich Road, Plymouth, MA 02360

**Time:** 12:00 PM-6:00 PM

Plymouth is currently undertaking the MVP Planning Grant process with a focus on public health. In broadening the scope of the traditional MVP planning process, they have branded the effort **Climate-Ready Healthy Plymouth**. The Plymouth branch of Beth Israel Deaconess (BID) Hospital has served as a key partner

throughout their MVP process. The Senior Director of Public Safety and Support Services for BID-Plymouth is a member of Plymouth's MVP Core Team. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, BID-Plymouth had offered to host the traditional MVP planning workshop (the workshop is now being held via an innovative online platform). The Town also drafted a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment and held four focus groups in early 2020 with neighborhood steering committees, businesses, residents, and other stakeholders to understand their priorities for public health in the face of climate change.