

CARE MODEL

Lowell General Hospital developed a program that expands access to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment through medication bridging services, community-based treatment, and recovery support for patients. The program team engages patients through the emergency department (ED) or by referral from the Lowell Community Opiate Outreach Program. When patients with OUD come to the ED, members of a multi-disciplinary team composed of a psychiatric nurse practitioner, social worker, registered nurse, community health worker, and recovery coach assess patients for social, medical, and behavioral health needs to develop care plans and determine eligibility for medication for addiction treatment (MAT). Patients who are eligible for MAT are connected to the bridge clinic where clinicians can initiate medication. After patients are engaged in treatment, the program team refers them to outpatient addiction recovery providers to facilitate further SUD treatment post-discharge.

IMPACT

HPC AWARD

\$607K

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$825K

TARGET POPULATION

Adult patients who present to the hospital's ED with evidence of **opioid overdose** or **OUD**

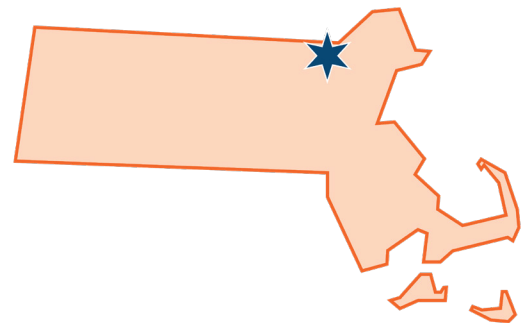
PRIMARY AIM

15% Reduction in 30-day opioid-related ED revisits

PARTNERS



- Middlesex Recovery
- Lowell Community Opiate Outreach Program



SHIFT-CARE CHALLENGE SUMMARY

The SHIFT-Care Challenge is an 18-month, \$10 million investment program supporting Sustainable Healthcare Innovations Fostering Transformation. Launched in 2018, SHIFT-Care has two tracks: one focused on addressing patients' health-related social needs and improving behavioral health care and the other aimed at expanding opioid use disorder treatment capacity through emergency departments and bridge clinics and facilitating timely follow-up care. The 15 SHIFT-Care awardees are partnering with 40 community organizations to implement strategies to reduce unnecessary hospital acute care utilization and to report other track- and awardee-specific measures.

HPC BACKGROUND

The HPC, established in 2012, is an independent state agency charged with monitoring health care spending growth in Massachusetts and providing data-driven policy recommendations regarding health care delivery and payment system reform. The HPC's mission is to advance a more transparent, accountable, and innovative health care system through independent policy leadership and investment programs. Visit us at Mass.gov/HPC. Tweet us @Mass_HPC.