

Health Equity Award: Strides for a Healthier, Happier Worcester

By: Kalea Barger

On March 24th 2021, the UMass MIND's Community Intervention Program (CIP) was one of three programs honored by the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester as a recipient of their Health Equity Award. The Coalition works with organizations around Worcester County to bring attention to and eventually eliminate health disparities among communities in an effort to improve citizen's health and quality of life, as well as build a sense of community. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is an initiative motivating and guiding the efforts of UMass MIND and nearly 100 other organizations working toward the shared goal of improving health equity within the Worcester community.

The UMass MIND CIP program is composed of medical professionals, students, and community partners working in collaboration to improve the lives and wellbeing of individuals living with a serious mental illness via meaningful community engagement. Our 5-module approach addresses clusters of social determinants of health including "Lifestyle as Medicine," "Arts & Music," "Culture & Identity," "Community Education & Support," and "Early Detection & Intervention." Each module works to collaborate with community partners and oftentimes holds events and workshops to engage community members.

