

The Massachusetts Forum for Creating Healthier Communities

VI

Leading. Learning. Communicating.

Massachusetts Forum for Creating Healthier Communities

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Sept. '08 – June '09

An Opportunity for Learning &
Positive Change

Trainings

Clinics

Technical Assistance & Coaching

Mentoring

**The Massachusetts Partnership for Healthier
Communities, a program of The Medical Foundation,
is supported/funded by:**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health: Bureau of
Substance Abuse Services and the Office of Healthy Communities

The Massachusetts Regional Centers for Healthy Communities

Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Burlington, MA

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Emerson Hospital, Concord, MA



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September 2008 – June 2009

A Healthy Community is where people come together to make their community better for themselves, their families, their friends, their neighbors, and others in their community by:

- *Generating leadership everywhere to shape its future*
- *Learning about itself, its people, their cultures, history, diversity, challenges and opportunities, and*
- *Communicating through ongoing dialogue and connecting people with resources to improve the health of all.*



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A program of

TMF

THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

The Massachusetts Forum for Creating Healthier Communities VI

The MassForum offers community teams and individuals a unique, extended opportunity to enhance skills and learn new strategies to create healthier, safer communities.

An Opportunity for Learning and Leading Positive Change

The Mass Partnership for Healthy Communities runs the MassForum training from September 2008 through June 2009. The MassForum includes monthly trainings as well as educational clinics, technical assistance, coaching, and mentoring opportunities as outlined below.

MassForum Trainings:

Hone the Skills that Make a Difference

The MassForum centers on a series of nine full-day monthly trainings. These are devoted to exploring ideas, enhancing skills, developing strategies, learning how to better recognize and address opportunities, accessing tools and resources, and advancing the goal of building safer and healthier communities. Trainings will be conducted by recognized national and local experts.

The trainings are scheduled to include:

- Healthy Communities Planning Process: Leading, Learning, and Communicating
- Culture, Diversity, and Communities
- Collaborative Leadership: How Citizens and Civic Leaders Can Make a Difference
- Working Together for Change in a Community
- Community Assessment
- Coalition Development and Maintenance
- Youth and Healthy Communities
- Benchmarking, Evaluating, and Communicating

A commitment to attend all monthly trainings is required for acceptance. Complete details, including full training course descriptions and updates, are available on the Web at: www.tmfnet.org/partnership

Communities successfully completing the MassForum will be eligible to apply for a limited number of Implementation Grants up to \$10,000.

MassForum Clinics:

Examine, Practice, and Improve

The MassForum offers clinics that facilitate explorations of topics identified by participants. These are opportunities to work on specific skills and strategies within an environment that encourages sharing of perspectives. Sessions will be led by individuals with topic expertise and participants will also serve as consultants to each other. Topics under consideration for the 2008 – 2009 program include: Partnership Development, Meeting Planning, Facilitation Skills, and Conflict Management.

MassForum Technical Assistance and Coaching:

Support to Communities

The MassForum features a component focused directly on community needs. Intensive Coaching will be provided to all community teams participating in the program. Technical Assistance will help those teams apply learned skills and strategies within their communities. Technical Assistance for those communities and other participants will be available through the Regional Centers for Healthy Communities (RCHC), the Massachusetts Partnership for Healthy Communities (MPHC), and the MPHC Website.

MassForum Mentoring:

Access Community Wisdom and Experience

In an effort to tap into the wisdom and experience of MassForum graduates and to help emerging healthy community groups with planning, implementation, and problem solving, participating communities are matched up with existing healthy community efforts through the mentoring network. This network facilitates the exchange of ideas through ongoing supportive community-to-community relationships.



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Who Should Apply:

TEAMS:

- Community¹ teams with a health focus of at least **six to eight people** each, such as: a **substance abuse collaboration or any community coalition** wanting to be more effective in their work
- **Teams should reflect the make-up of the community in terms of diversity**
- **Teams** should also represent the different sectors of the community, such as residents, health care, non-profit, business, local public health, cultural and neighborhood group/organizations and, importantly, municipal leaders

INDIVIDUALS:

- **Individuals active in their community** or in a healthy community initiative
- **Regional and statewide leaders** who are interested in enhancing their capacity to improve the health of the communities of the Commonwealth

How to Apply:

As a Community¹ Team

Timeline:

1. **April – May:** Submit a Letter of Interest to the Mass Partnership by or anytime prior to May 18th, 2008.

Letter of Interest (one page):

1. Name of your community¹
 2. Identify potential team members
 3. Explain why the team is interested in and ready for the MassForum training
 4. Name/address/phone number and email of contact person
2. **February – June 20, 2008:** Schedule a meeting² of your prospective team with the Mass Partnership staff and your Regional Center for Healthy Communities to discuss the MassForum training opportunity. The final application form will be given to the team at this meeting. **A scheduled meeting for the potential team is a requirement of the application.** (Schedule early — end date June 20th!)
 3. **Friday, June 27, 2008:** All applications due to the Mass Partnership office.

¹ Community can be geographical or a community of interest such as substance abuse, obesity, or HIV/AIDS.

² Meetings with team to discuss:

- The community identified
- How the trainings will benefit the community
- The best composition for the team
- Requirements of participation in the MassForum

For More Information Please Contact:

Commonly asked questions: www.tmfnet.org/partnership
Peter Lee: (617) 451-0049 x507 or plee@tmfnet.org
TTY: (617) 451-0007

Are All Trainings Necessary?

All nine training events are part of a comprehensive curriculum. Everyone is **urged** to attend all the training sessions in order to get the full benefit of the MassForum.

Trainings will be held in Shrewsbury, MA on the following dates.

September 17th	February 11th
October 15th	March 18th
November 19th	April 15th
December: none	May 2nd
January 21st	June 17th

As an Individual

Timeline:

- Individual applications are due **Friday, June 27, 2008.**
- A phone call with the Mass Partnership director is required for all individual applications in order to review what is required for the MassForum. See below for contact information.

Application Forms Available at:

web: www.tmfnet.org/partnership
phone: (617) 451-0049 x 507
email: plee@tmfnet.org

Mail/Fax/Email Letter of Interest and Application to:

Massachusetts Partnership
for Healthy Communities
The Medical Foundation
95 Berkeley Street
Boston, MA 02116

Fax to: (617) 451-0062
email to: plee@tmfnet.org

Registration Fee:

Community Teams: \$4,000.00
Individuals: \$850.00

A limited number of scholarships are available.



Accommodations can be requested in the application.