



May 29, 2015

Dear Cambridge Community,

We are pleased to present the final report of the **2015 City of Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan**.

In 2014, the Cambridge Public Health Department conducted a community health assessment to better understand the city's most pressing health needs. Based on data and key themes from the assessment, community stakeholders and health department staff identified health priority areas for the city, which provided the basis for the development of a comprehensive citywide health improvement plan.

The Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is part of an effort by the city to have a nationally accredited health department and to transform the practice of local public health. The CHIP is a five-year plan that has identified the various determinants of health that will be the focus of efforts supported by a mosaic of community partners.

In this report, you will find actionable goals, objectives, and strategies for making tangible progress across four health priority areas initially identified in the assessment. The defined priority areas and cross-cutting strategies include mental health/substance abuse, violence, healthy and affordable housing, healthy eating/active living, access to health care and health equity.

The Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan reflects the broad participation of people who live and work in Cambridge:

- Over 70 people from diverse sectors of the community participated in developing strategic components of the plan as members of a common "village" with a commitment to the vibrancy of the local community.
- Over 30 subject matter experts and reviewers helped to refine the plan reflecting the true population health efforts that are embedded in the document itself.
- A variety of brainstorming sessions that engaged community stakeholders to take ownership of the plan and be held accountable for the progress made over time and to incorporate corrective actions as needed.

We hope you will find this plan to be illuminating and inspiring. We invite each of you to join us on the journey as we further define the *culture of health* here in Cambridge.

Handwritten signature of Richard C. Rossi in black ink.

Richard C. Rossi
City Manager

Handwritten signature of Patrick R. Wardell in black ink.

Patrick R. Wardell
Commissioner of Public Health