

# EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SEXUAL HEALTH CARE AND SEX EDUCATION IN WORCESTER



**Our goal: Decrease stigma and improve access to sexual and reproductive health care and education for BIPOC people in the greater Worcester area.**

- **Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) in Worcester** don't have the same access to sexual and reproductive health care and education as their peers.
- Why? **Stigma** surrounding sexual health and contraception use, **lack of school-based sex education**, and **lack of access** to sexual and reproductive health care.
  - In Worcester, the infant mortality rate for Latina and Black people are **3x and 2x** greater than their white counterparts, respectively.
  - In Worcester, communities of color face **disparities in STI rates as well as access to sexual and reproductive healthcare.**
- **Addressing this health injustice is part of our mission.** In collaboration with and following the lead of our community partners, PPLM's goals in Worcester are to:



**DECREASE STIGMA AROUND SEXUAL HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.**

**IMPROVE ACCESS TO CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, HIGH-QUALITY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION FOR BIPOC COMMUNITIES.**

**IMPROVE CITY-LEVEL SEXUAL HEALTH OUTCOMES.**



**Disrupting Disparities. Advancing Equity.**  
Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts  
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund

PPLM has been **caring for and educating** the Worcester community for nearly 40 years and will continue to work with and in BIPOC communities to **empower young people and adults** with the care and information they need, helping them make health care decisions that are right for them and their futures.

In collaboration with community partners, PPLM is actively working to:

## BUILD POLITICAL POWER WITHIN BIPOC COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Foster partnerships and **support** partners' advocacy efforts.
- ✓ Through the Raíz program, **break down barriers** to health care access and **build organizing power** within BIPOC communities.

## IMPROVE QUALITY OF AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION & INFORMATION

- ✓ **Grow** the **Sexual Health Ambassador Program**, a staff-supported collective of volunteer Latino/a/x and/or Hispanic leaders, caregivers, parents, and organizers who raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues and inform others on accessing care in a wide range of community settings.
- ✓ **Conduct** local sexual health awareness **campaigns**.
- ✓ **Host** parent and youth education programs that **center and empower** Latino/a/x and/or Hispanic communities in Worcester.
- ✓ **Mobilize in support of LGBTQ-inclusive sex ed** in the Worcester Public Schools to educate students on contraception, STI prevention, and consent.
- ✓ **Teach the *Get Real* curriculum** in schools, community settings, and in programs for pregnant and parenting youth.

## INCREASE ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE HEALTH CARE

- ✓ **Increase** the number of places people can get free or low cost sexual and reproductive health care.
- ✓ **Strengthen** ongoing relationships with patients by increasing connections to resources and implementing telehealth.
- ✓ **Deliver** culturally responsive training for providers.