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City of Manchester, New Hampshire Receives RWJF Culture of Health Prize For Efforts that Give All Residents the Chance to Thrive

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Recognizes the City of Manchester, NH
for Weaving a Culture of Health throughout the Community's Fabric*

Manchester, NH (September 14, 2016) Manchester is one of seven winners of the 2016 *RWJF Culture of Health Prize* awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted solely to health. The Prize honors communities for their efforts to ensure all residents have the opportunity to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives.

Manchester is being nationally recognized for bringing partners together to rally around a shared vision of health, drawing especially on the wisdom, voice, and experience of residents themselves. Chosen from nearly 200 applicant communities across the country, Manchester's award winning efforts include its response to the emerging opioid and heroin epidemic—which has successfully mobilized first responders, community organizations, and health care providers to connect residents with critical treatment services. When over half of the City's school children became enrolled in free and reduced meals, city leaders in partnership with residents worked to transform schools in the city's most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas into neighborhood health and education hubs. Former textile mills have been converted into high-tech spaces and outdoor recreation areas, spurring economic growth and providing more opportunities for physical activity. Funders are collaboratively investing in new ways to bring projects to scale.

"We are honored to be selected as one of 27 *RWJF Culture of Health Prize* communities from over 1000 proposals submitted nationally within the past four years" said Tim Soucy, Public Health Director. "It celebrates the collective work of our community partners and gets us closer to achieving a vision for health as prescribed in our Neighborhood Health Improvement Strategy www.manchesternh.gov/health/NeighborhoodHealthImprovementStrategy.pdf."

"The *RWJF Culture of Health Prize* communities show us that in towns and regions across the nation, individuals are coming together to find powerful ways to help people achieve the best health possible. These communities are connecting the dots between health and education, jobs, housing, and community safety," said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, RWJF president and CEO. "We're privileged to learn from this growing network of communities that offer hope for the well-being of the entire nation."

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Manchester will receive a \$25,000 cash prize, join a network of Prize-winning communities and have their inspiring accomplishments shared throughout the nation. The other six winning communities are: 24:1 Community in the St. Louis area of Missouri; Columbia Gorge Region of Oregon and Washington; Louisville, Kentucky; Miami-Dade County, Florida; Santa Monica, California, and the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe in Washington.

To become an *RWJF Culture of Health Prize* winner, Manchester had to demonstrate how it excelled in the following six criteria:

- Defining health in the broadest possible terms.
- Committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions.
- Cultivating a shared and deeply-held belief in the importance of equal opportunity for health.
- Harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and community members.
- Securing and making the most of available resources.
- Measuring and sharing progress and results.

“Manchester continues to demonstrate its resilience and passion for the people who make up this great community” said Mayor Ted Gatsas, “We are proud of our neighborhood health improvement efforts to date and look forward to surpassing the expectations we set for ourselves for years to come.”

Manchester will join this year’s other Prize winning communities at the Culture of Health Prize Celebration and Learning Event taking place at Robert Wood Johnson Foundation headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey on October 19-20, 2016. A local celebration in Manchester is being planned for November. Details will be forthcoming. Learn more about Manchester’s work, as well as this year’s other Prize winners through a collection of videos, photos and more at www.rwjf.org/Prize.

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About the City of Manchester Health Department

Established in 1885, the City of Manchester Health Department is an innovative and proactive local health department grounded in the principles and application of the core public health functions. Its mission is “to improve the health of individuals, families, and the community through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats” by working with and for the community to improve the public’s health. For more information, visit www.manchesternh.gov/health.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

About the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

The [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute](http://www.uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu) advances health and well-being for all by developing and evaluating interventions and promoting evidence-based approaches to policy and practice at the local, state, and national levels. The Institute works across the full spectrum of factors that contribute to health. A focal point for health and health care dialogue within the University of Wisconsin-Madison and beyond, and a convener of stakeholders, the Institute promotes an exchange of expertise between those in academia and those in the policy and practice arena. The Institute leads the work on the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* and the *RWJF Culture of Health Prize*. For more information, visit <http://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu>