

# Massachusetts Prevention and Wellness Trust: An Innovative Approach to Funding

## The Massachusetts Prevention and Wellness Trust

An Innovative Approach to Prevention as  
a Component of Health Care Reform



# Health Reform in Massachusetts

- Major health reform law passed in 2006
- Initial focus on insurance coverage – 97% covered and 91% with primary care MD
- 2012 legislation aimed at cost and quality (Chapter 224)
- Created workplace wellness incentives, health planning and...Prevention and Wellness Trust (PWTF)

# Prevention Trust Provisions



- \$60 million in trust for 4 years
- Funding: assessment of insurers & large providers
- Flexibility about spending per year
- 75% was for grantee awards
- Up to 10% on worksite wellness programs
- Up to 15% on administration through MDPH

# What Conditions Created Environment for Trust

- Solving access led to more focused attention on cost and quality
- Costs continued to grow unabated despite many efforts to control growth
- Successful example of *Mass in Motion* prevention initiatives (money in districts; good buzz on population health)
- Strong consumer and advocacy orgs: continued existence after 1<sup>st</sup> reform bill

# Award Requirements

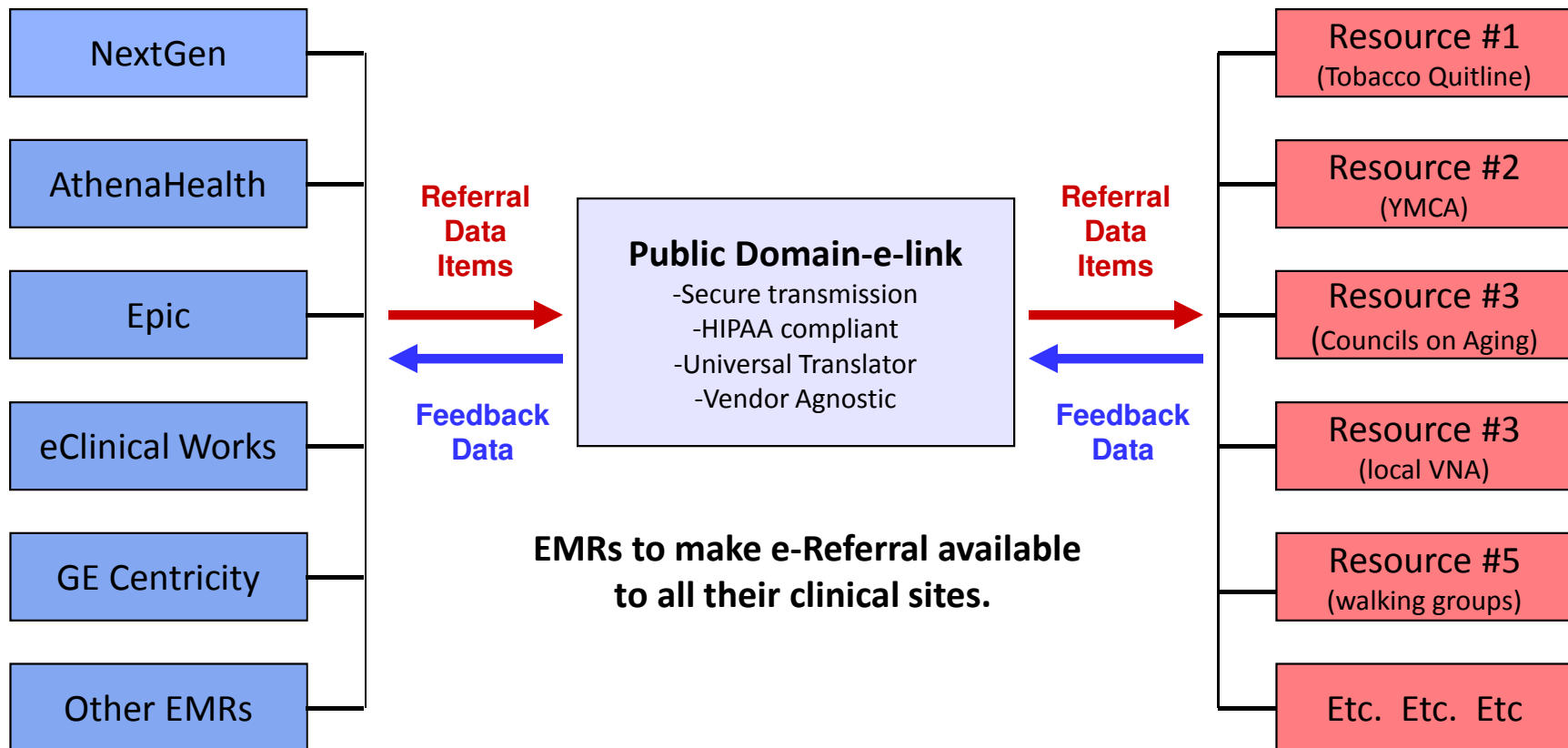
- Applicants had to include clinical providers, community-based organizations, municipalities, health plans, regional planning agencies and/or work sites
  - Enhance community-clinical partnerships
  - Address barriers to optimal health
  - Track referral of patients from health care to community services and back
- Had to focus on priority areas of childhood asthma, elder falls, tobacco use and/or hypertension

# PWTF Chapter 224 Guidelines

## **All expenditures should:**

- reduce rates of preventable health conditions;
- increase healthy behaviors through evidence-based interventions;
- increase adoption of workplace-based wellness programs;
- address health disparities;
- further develop the evidence-base

# Information Exchange Network



# Grants Awarded in Dec. 2013

**Number of awards: 6 to 12**

**Average Size of Awards:**

- Year 1: ~\$250,000 per awardee (capacity-building)
- Year 2: ~\$1,100,000 - \$2,200,000 per awardee (implementation phase)
- Year 3: ~\$1,200,000 to \$2,500,000 per awardee (implementation phase)
- Year 4: \$1,100,000 - \$2,200,000 per awardee (transitioning to sustainability phase)



# Acknowledgements

- Commissioner Cheryl Bartlett and Bureau Director Tom Land, MDPH
- Northeastern University – Bouve School
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Full report on the Trust Fund at:

[www.northeastern.edu/iuhrp](http://www.northeastern.edu/iuhrp)