



Contact: Sarah Kossayda, Communications, Healthy Community Initiative
(603) 354-5454 x2793 or email: skossayda@cheshire-med.com
News Release – For Immediate Distribution

**Healthy Monadnock 2020 Selected as a
Roadmaps to Health Action Award Recipient, Will Focus on Living Wages**

Keene, NH (May 28, 2015) – Healthy Monadnock is one of 20 community networks nationwide to receive a *Roadmaps to Health* Action Award. The Action Awards are designed to strengthen the capacity of communities to make effective and lasting change and will be used to build on existing efforts to improve health. The existing effort in the Monadnock region is the development of a structure to support a regional living wage campaign and to create a capacity building plan to support the campaign's launch.

"We are very proud and honored to have received the Roadmaps to Health Action Award and the ongoing coaching and educational support this award will provide to our community. Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene continues its wholehearted support to improving the health of our employees and our community through our many and diverse population health initiatives" said Art Nichols, President, Cheshire Medical Center.

The Action Awards are part of the [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#) (CHR&R) program, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. As a *Roadmaps to Health* Action Award community, **Healthy Monadnock's collaborators** will receive a year of direct, customized support from a *Roadmaps to Health* community coach and be able to participate in learning network activities. **Healthy Monadnock** will also receive \$10,000 to accelerate the community's work in building a Culture of Health.

"For our community, receiving the *Roadmaps to Health* Action Award means we are on the right track to address the factors that impact population health – factors that include income level, education level and the type of job you have," said Linda Rubin, Director, Healthy Monadnock, Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene. "With this support, community stakeholders can better understand the correlation between wages and health. Working together, we can create and support a strategy to address the implications this issue presents for employers and other stakeholders in our community".

Patrick Dolenc, Professor of Economics from Keene State College and part of the Monadnock region's Living Wage Work Group said that smoking, diabetes, and blood pressure levels decrease in direct correlation with higher income levels. "This grant will propel Healthy Monadnock's and The Living Wage Work Group's understanding of these correlations and implications for our community, including employers."

“The *Roadmaps to Health* Action communities are well-positioned to leverage the networking opportunities, coaching and funding this award offers to build on their existing momentum,” said Julie Willems Van Dijk, co-director of the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program. “These communities are committed to better health. We hope the next year of hands-on, coordinated support and learning enables these communities to take their work to the next level.”

The *Roadmaps to Health* Action Award was developed in collaboration with Chapel Hill, NC based [Active Living By Design](#) and is part of the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program. The *Rankings* show communities where they can improve, and the *Roadmaps* show communities how to take action to expand opportunities for healthier choices. Find out more at www.countyhealthrankings.org and www.rwjf.org

About Healthy Monadnock

Healthy Monadnock is a community engagement initiative designed to foster and sustain a positive culture of health throughout Cheshire County and the Monadnock Region. Founded and developed by the Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene in 2007, Healthy Monadnock’s action plans are being guided in the community by the Healthiest Community Advisory Board, a group of 30 individuals representing schools, organizations, coalitions and businesses. Currently the City of Keene, the Keene School District and five area coalitions are implementing action strategies designed to improve quality of life and prevent the leading causes of death for everyone. Learn more at: www.healthymonadnock.org.

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