



**2023 MIAP Conference Awardee
Gabriela Garcia, RN, BSN
Vaccine Program Coordinator
Lynn Community Health Center**

Each year, the Massachusetts Immunization Action Partnership (MIAP) recognizes individuals or groups that have made an outstanding contribution to pediatric immunization in Massachusetts. The recipient of this award is an individual or an organization that has demonstrated leadership, initiative, innovation, collaboration and/or advocacy.

The MIAP Conference is delighted to recognize the 2023 Conference Awardee, Gabriela Garcia. Gabriela Garcia is the Vaccine Program Coordinator at Lynn Community Health Center and its three busy sites. The Lynn Community Health Center serves more than 40,000 people each year. Gabriela also is back-up Vaccine Coordinator for the Health Center's three school-based sites.

In her role as Vaccine Program Coordinator, Gabriela has demonstrated that she is a leader, and an excellent collaborator. She is the "go to" person at LCHC for "all things vaccine."

Gabriela stays current on immunization recommendations, best practices, and local and national initiatives to improve vaccination rates. She willingly imparts her knowledge to staff at

all LCHC's sites to ensure consistency of practice at the sites. She communicates immunization information successfully in an approachable manner to successfully reach all knowledge levels.

Gabriela has a vast knowledge of LCHC's sites and patient populations. When reviewing patient immunization records, she can quickly identify and correct errors in their records.

She identifies barriers to optimal immunization and creates solutions to overcome them.

Examples that demonstrate that Gabriela is an Immunization Champion:

- She identified an organizational vaccination challenge, worked with partners at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to determine possible solutions, presented the solutions to her team and successfully implemented a solution to the challenge.
- She worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to stay current on recommendations and to ensure that vaccines and associated supplies were readily accessible.
- She participated on a COVID-19 vaccine confidence panel in Lynn, responding to educator and community questions and concerns about COVID-19 vaccines.
- She identified a need for immunization content on LCHC's website. She worked to develop content which communicated LCHC's immunization policy and included easily accessible immunization resources.
- She works with school-based health center staff to ensure that they are up to date with current recommendations and best practices for optimal vaccine storage and handling.
- As a long-term participant in MCAAP, MDPH and MIAP educational activities, and as a member of the MCAAP Immunization Initiative Advisory Committee she ensures that she stays current on immunization recommendations and best practices.

Gabriela Garcia truly is an Immunization Champion who, through her dedication, leadership, and innovation, embodies the spirit of the MIAP Conference Award.

Congratulations, Gabriela!