

Frederica M. Williams, MBA, FCIS (UK)

President & CEO, Whittier Street Health Center

Biography

Frederica M. Williams is president and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center, one of Boston's preeminent community health systems. Whittier delivers high-quality, patient-focused care to 30,000 people per year in pursuit of health equity, social justice, and economic equity.

As a healthcare executive and health equity expert, Ms. Williams is nationally recognized for her innovative, compassionate leadership and relentless advocacy for Boston's most vulnerable residents, including low-income people, immigrants, refugees, and the Black and Latinx communities. Whether she is engaging with patients, employees, corporate partners, or community leaders, Ms. Williams embraces Boston's multicultural richness and empowers individuals to participate fully in their own wellbeing.

Since assuming the helm of Whittier in 2002, Ms. Williams has driven a sixfold increase in the number of patients served annually and expanded the center's footprint every year. Today, Whittier operates from its flagship clinic on Tremont Street in Roxbury, known as the **FREDERICA M. WILLIAMS BUILDING**, as well as a satellite clinic, a fleet of mobile health vehicles, and several school-based health clinics. At every touchpoint, Whittier engages patients where they are, removes barriers to care, and encourages healthy lifestyles.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Williams held management and finance positions with Dimock Community Health Center, Partners Healthcare, and Boston Children's Hospital. She was born in Sierra Leone and moved to Boston from London in 1984.

In her free time, Ms. Williams enjoys volunteering, reading, traveling, and enjoying the company of her family.

Career Highlights

- **Opened Whittier's flagship facility in 2012.** This state-of-the-art, LEED-certified health and wellness center spans 80,000 square feet and stands as a centerpiece of the surrounding neighborhood. Fully owned by Whittier, the building operates as a patient-centered medical home and houses Whittier's Center for Health Equity Research, pharmacy, food pantry, fitness center, community garden, housing support office, and Club 1290 (a social club for seniors). In 2018, the clinic was named the **FREDERICA M. WILLIAMS BUILDING** in recognition of her leadership to address health equity, social justice, and the economic wellbeing of people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Launched Whittier's Boston Health Equity Program in 2012** to close the life expectancy gaps in Roxbury, MA. In 2007, a report by the Boston Public Health Commission noted that the average life expectancy in Roxbury was 59.5 years compared to the average life expectancy of 92 years in the Back Bay (2 miles from Roxbury)— a 33-year gap. A 2023 report by the Boston Public Health Commission noted that the gap

had closed to 23 years, and Whittier and its partners played a critical role in closing the life expectancy gap.

- **Boldly led Whittier through the Covid-19 pandemic to reach Boston’s most vulnerable communities.** In partnership with the City of Boston, Whittier tapped its proven, culturally sensitive delivery system and clinical expertise to provide tests, vaccines, and education, which helped mitigate virus infection and deaths.
- **Expanded mobile health services** to include pop-up vaccination clinics, primary care, dental care, behavioral health screenings, HIV and infectious disease management, and social services. A fleet of four mobile health vehicles regularly visits public housing developments, community hot spots, Boston public schools, and faith-based organizations.
- **Solidified Whittier’s financial footing,** vastly grew and diversified revenue streams through grants and fundraising, and positioned the center to deliver care for generations to come.

Recognition

2014–current	Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts (for Whittier Street Health Center), Commonwealth Institute and <i>Boston Globe</i>
2023	Joan Wallace Benjamin Leadership Award (for nonprofit leaders who exemplify exceptional leadership qualities and a compassionate and empathetic approach to service)
2022	Metro Housing Boston, Lowell Richards Award (for leadership across public, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors) Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, 100 Black Women (for the <i>Black Women Lead</i> project) Harvard University Extension School Alumni Association, Dean Shinagel Award for Service to Others
2021	<i>Savoy Magazine</i> , most influential Black corporate directors
2015–2016	<i>Boston Business Journal</i> , Power 50 Bostonians list (for transforming real estate in Boston) <i>Boston Business Journal</i> , Women of Influence
2012	Whittier Street Health Center names its flagship clinic the FREDERICA M. WILLIAMS BUILDING White House Communications Agency (award for exceptional community service)
2011	Women’s Network of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Pinnacle Award <i>The Network Journal</i> (NY), 25 Influential Black Women in Business List

- 2010 Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Outstanding Massachusetts Health Center Executive Director Award
Mayor's Office for New Bostonians, Community Leadership Award
Boston Business Journal: Health Champion Award (for community outreach)
- 2009 WMJX-106.7 FM, Exceptional Women in Healthcare Award
- 2008 *Women Business Magazine*: Top 10 Heroes Award
UMass Boston, Robert Quinn Award

Memberships

Trustee, Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Independent Director, Eversource Energy
Fellow, National Association of Corporate Directors
Member, International Women's Forum
Member, Massachusetts Women's Forum
Member, Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Health Care Industry Foundation
Fellow, Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland

Education

MBA, finance
Anna Maria College, Paxton, MA

Graduate certificate, administration and management
Harvard University Extension School

ICSA, business administration and management
London School of Accountancy

Continuing education
Harvard University Business School

Passed examinations of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Financial Administrators and the Institute of Administrative Management with distinction

