

***The right people are at the table. Committed, knowledgeable, focused and rallying around a community health need.***

***Still, developing and implementing an action plan doesn't just magically happen...***

**WHAT'S NEEDED?** After years of hands-on experience launching 13 Accountable Communities for Health (ACH), CACHI has found that an essential ingredient for creating a robust cross-sector infrastructure—one that can successfully bring stakeholders and residents together—is a strong, sustainably funded backbone entity tasked with managing day-to-day operations and facilitating all ACH activities.

An effective infrastructure is able to coordinate and align programmatic, financial, communications and data strategies. ACHs demonstrate how collective action can advance more equitable outcomes when the community is actively engaged.

While partners and residents assume a range of leadership roles within the ACH, it is the backbone entity that provides the glue that keeps the collaborative together—managing personalities, schedules, priorities and timelines. It provides consistency, follow-through and, most importantly, pursues sustainable strategies to improve community health, ensure health equity and maintain momentum for the long term.

Ultimately, the ACH approach, when backed by consistent funding, moves partners from an information sharing network to a structured and strategic collaboration that achieves more together than any single organization could do on its own.

Key functions of the ACH infrastructure include:

### **Elevating Community Voice**

- Inform, engage and activate community leaders and residents
- Recruit resident participation
- Ensure residents have a role in decision-making

### **Facilitating Action**

- Engage employers, sectors, systems and residents
- Convene stakeholders for cross-sector collaboration
- Provide technical assistance
- Facilitate data sharing and analysis
- Identify community assets

### **Building Sustainability for Impact**

- Design and manage ongoing governance and infrastructure
- Ensure leadership is distributed
- Maintain communications between partners and the community
- Facilitate fundraising and develop sustainable financing
- Monitor progress and conduct evaluations

### **Stewarding Systems Change**

- Catalyze innovative thinking
- Oversee alignment of existing stakeholder-defined strategies
- Identify gaps and new solutions
- Adopt new collaborative practices among partners and community
- Manage power dynamics

### **Influencing Policy**

- Identify and elevate community issues
- Advocate for local and state policy change

### **HOW DO ACHs ADVANCE EQUITY?**

➡ Ensure that the ACH decision-making body is diverse, inclusive and equitable

➡ Conduct targeted outreach and engage residents from communities that historically experienced discrimination

➡ Investigate structural causes of inequities by facilitating difficult conversations and collaboratively collecting data from target communities

➡ Ensure funding is prioritized to serve historically under-resourced communities and groups

➡ Conduct a power analysis, develop power sharing practices and intentionally increase—and monitor—community trust and participation