

Accountable Communities for Health

The Next Step for Community Health & Equity

WHAT IS AN ACH?

The Accountable Communities for Health (ACH) model is emerging as an important vehicle for addressing [population health and health equity](#) using multi-sector and community-based partnerships, in service of a shared collective vision.

The model recognizes that [health is the result of interdependent factors](#) at work across a community and that [no single entity controls enough levers](#) to address them alone.

ACHs bring together residents with clinical providers, public health departments, schools, social service agencies, CBOs and businesses in a [collective effort](#) to make a community healthier, more equitable and resilient.

To date, 13 communities across California have formed ACHs to address a range of community-identified issues.



WHAT IS CACHI?

The [California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative \(CACHI\)](#) was founded as a public-private partnership between state government and leading private sector funders, and is designed to modernize our health system to build a healthier, more equitable California:

- The California Endowment*
- Blue Shield of California Foundation*
- Kaiser Permanente*
- The California Wellness Foundation*
- Sierra Health Foundation*
- WellBeing Trust*
- Social Impact Exchange*

BENEFITS OF THE ACH MODEL

Health & Social Service Connections

Alignment Between Sectors

Accelerated Innovation

Effective Local Policy

Sustainable Funding

Engaged Residents



Improved Health Outcomes, More Resilient Systems & Greater Equity



HOW AN ACH WORKS: 3 KEY ROLES



CATALYZING ALIGNMENT

ACHs collectively problem solve, align interests and incubate new ideas to address both longstanding and emerging issues, eliminating siloed, program-by-program interventions.



“The ACH facilitates cross-sector communication and partnerships with purpose. This has resulted in new contracting opportunities, workforce development and increased community capacity to address the health and social needs of residents.”

— San Diego’s ACH



LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

Diverse organizations, sectors and residents typically come to the table with unequal power. By centering equity and community voice in all partner operations, ACHs shift power and resources to produce more equitable outcomes and a stronger, more cohesive community.



“We’ve heard through our Trustbuilders [resident organizers] that housing was more of a day-to-day issue than had been previously known. That’s influenced our focus—now we organize residents around housing.”

— South Stockton’s ACH



ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

ACHs facilitate data sharing and accountability to help partners—and the community—develop an understanding of mutual problems and collaborate on solutions. This forms a strong foundation for equitable and sustainable systems change.



“Our ACH provided us with the opportunity to release funding from our Wellness Fund at a rapid rate to respond to COVID-19, helping us target our most vulnerable communities—particularly those that aren’t able to receive assistance elsewhere.”

— East San José’s ACH

KEY FEATURES OF AN ACH

Accountable Communities for Health are places where communities come together to make equitable change happen. That’s because no single entity can solve today’s complex problems alone. One can always distinguish a collaborative as an ACH when it features the following ingredients for success:

Multi-Sector Collaboration: Diverse interests, representing key sectors of the community, provide the insights, resources, access and capacity necessary to achieve meaningful change.

Community Voice: Residents have a prominent and active role in ACHs, ensuring that all activities are representative of all parts of the community.

Active Alignment: Since multi-dimensional problems require multi-dimensional solutions, partners shift from a program-specific approach to one where participants align interests, incubate fresh ideas and expand collective capacity with transparency and data sharing.

