

# Accountable Communities for Health

A Model for 'Recovery and Equity Councils' that Provides Community-Driven Accountability

## The ACH: Opportunity, Equity & Funding

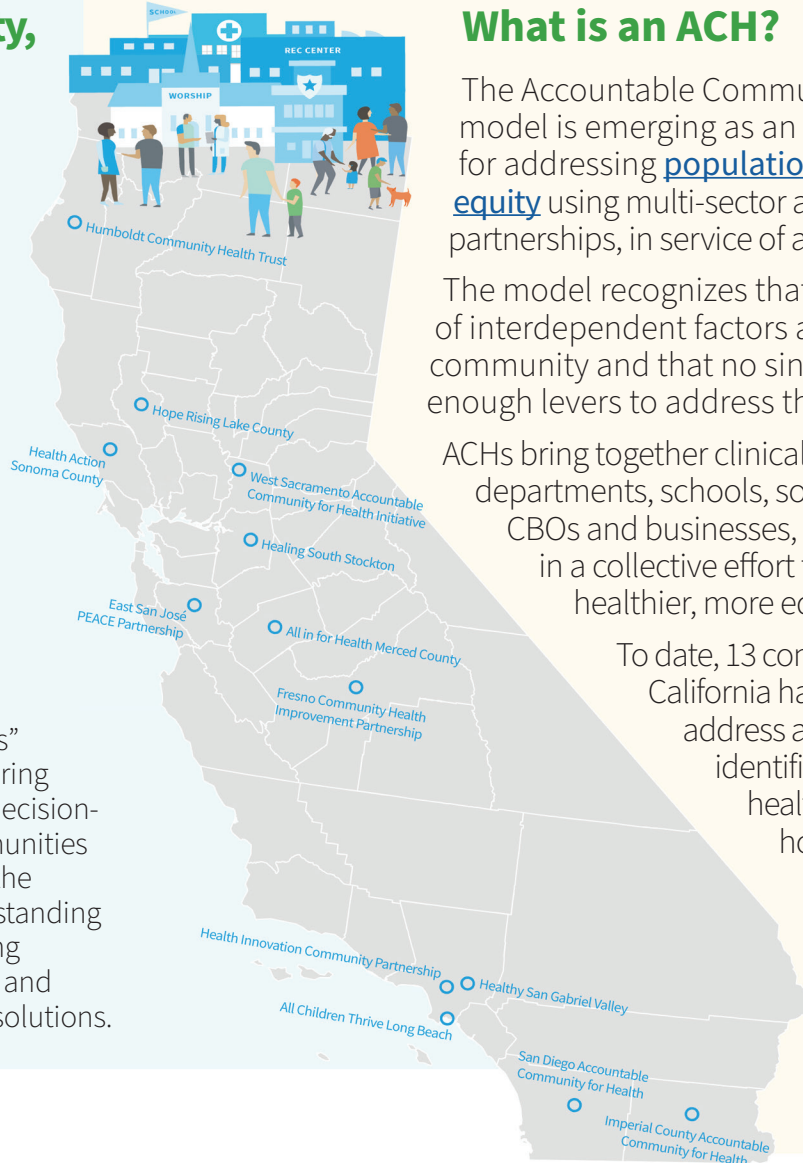
With an infusion of new funding from the federal and state governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have the opportunity to set in motion new ways of working that, over the long-term, hold great potential for eliminating structural inequities and improving community health.

As described in a recent [CalMatters commentary](#), five leading health foundations put forth the idea of using a portion of the funding to create "Recovery and Equity Councils" modeled on ACHs. Such enduring and inclusive approaches to decision-making ensure that the communities and people most affected by the pandemic, as well as by long-standing inequities overall, play a driving role in identifying, developing and implementing strategies and solutions.

## What is CACHI?

The California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative (CACHI) was founded as a public-private partnership between state government and private sector funders, and 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



## 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 clinical providers, public health departments, schools, social service agencies, CBOs and businesses, along with residents, 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: cardiovascular health, asthma, housing and homelessness, substance use disorder (SUD), food insecurity, violence and trauma, adverse childhood (ACEs) experiences and children's health.

## What are ACHs accomplishing?

*"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**

*"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**

*"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**