



Accountable Communities of Health

An Accountable Community of Health (ACH) is a group of leaders from a variety of sectors in a given geographic area with a common interest in improving health. ACHs address health needs where they occur—at the local level. ACHs are based on the notion that health is more than health care, and will focus on issues that affect health, such as education, income, housing, and access to care.

How can an ACH lead to a healthier Washington?

By increasing community-based, cross-sector collaboration, ACHs better align resources and activities, which will improve whole person health and wellness. ACH participants promote health equity across the state and address the broader issues that affect health through regional health improvement plans. As Healthier Washington continues to expand, ACHs will serve a key role in supporting regional and statewide initiatives such as practice transformation, value-based purchasing and the alignment of performance measures.

Where are the ACHs located and whom do they serve?

ACHs contribute to health system transformation, and as such, the nine ACH regions identified in this map align with each of the state’s Medicaid regional service area boundaries.



Okanogan and Klickitat are transitional counties based on Medicaid regional service areas.

Are all ACHs the same?

Each ACH shares the same general purpose, has a formal governance structure and bylaws, and includes representation from a diverse and broad cross-section of entities. Each ACH will also play a similar role in projects implemented statewide, such as the Practice Transformation Support Hub. ACHs are different based on regional preference and priorities, such as the details of their governance structure, the particular entities participating, and the projects each undertakes in response to the unique health concerns of their region.

Who governs the ACHs?

In many cases, the organization that stepped forward to apply for the initial “Community of Health” planning grant beginning in July 2014 continues to be the sub-awardee providing the ACH with staff and administrative support. For some ACHs, this entity is a local public health agency. For others, it is a non-profit organization with a history of health reform activity in the region.

While the sub-awardee may help develop the governance structure, in most regions, it does not itself govern the ACH. In two regions, the sub-awardee is itself the ACH entity and retains decision-making authority and multi-sector representation according to the contractual guidelines. The governance structure of the ACH typically involves a board or committee, made-up of a subset of these participants, with whom final decision-making authority rests.

What is the best way to become involved with ACHs?

Because each ACH is structured differently and is at a different stage of development, contact the ACH in which you have an interest. Contact information for the ACH backbone leads and administrative support team is on the Healthier Washington web page provided below.

Learn more about Accountable Communities of Health:

Website: www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/communities_of_health.aspx

Email: CommunityTransformation@hca.wa.gov
