

What is it?

An Accountable Community for Health, or ACH for short, is a **new way of working together** to improve community health by addressing factors that affect health, beyond medical care. Research shows that medical care accounts for only 10-20 percent of health outcomes and other factors like race, socio-economic status, education and physical environment contribute the rest. Given this, an ACH creates **meaningful partnerships** between healthcare and community organizations to prevent chronic disease and save lives.

Why do it?

Today, significant resources are dedicated to medical care or “downstream” efforts and a smaller percentage of resources are invested in **prevention and population approaches to health**, also called “upstream.” Focusing upstream can create better health, less disease, more equity and generate long-term savings by reducing the use of healthcare services. An ACH seeks to refocus efforts and investment in upstream efforts.

What does it take?



Stewardship and Engagement

- A **multi-sector coalition** of partners including healthcare, public health, social services, behavioral health, schools, business and community organizations.
- A **shared vision** of community health with a focus on preventing chronic disease, balancing a regional approach with community-specific approaches.
- A “backbone” organization to coordinate activities.



Data Sharing

- Sharing **data and information** to coordinate services and linkages across all partners, monitor outcomes and identify and **address gaps and disparities**. We will build on existing resources and **act on data** in new and coordinated ways.



Collective Action

- A new approach to **link clinical and community actions**. The ACH will take a “wide-angle” view of the entire system – both clinical and community – that contributes to health outcomes. We will build on current programs while engaging **new and diverse partners**.



Investment

- New **funding models** that explore ways to move resources from traditional downstream spending to non-traditional **upstream investments**. A community wellness fund is envisioned that will provide the infrastructure for these types of investments.

Join the ACH discussion to unleash the power of partnerships, improve health and save lives!

