Community Health Action Network

What is the Community Health Action Network?

The CDC Foundation created the **Community Health Action Network (CHAN)** to translate research and recommendations on strengthening public-private collaboration into real world practice. In five states, CHAN brought together a triad of organizations comprised of a **health department**, a **community-based organization** and a **healthcare partner** to work on a shared health goal. The triads established **simple rules** or guidelines that support aligned action within and across organizations and residents in communities. With direct funding, peer learning support and technical assistance, each regional triad tested and refined **community-centered approaches**, building **stronger partnerships** and improving their ability to achieve meaningful health outcomes.

New York

- Buffalo Center for Health Equity
- Erie County Department of Health's Office of Health Equity
- BestSelf Behavioral Health

The New York Triad partners assessed **youth mental health needs**, early intervention systems and the social, educational and environmental factors influencing academic performance and absenteeism. Through the Vision Thrive initiative, they engaged the community with respect, gathering qualitative data on the lived mental health experiences of young people through focus groups while also examining quantitative data on youth mental health trends and outcomes from local schools and providers. The New York Triad built strong, lasting partnerships across the community and gathered critical information to help strengthen early intervention and improve services supporting the health and wellbeing of young people in Western New York.



South Carolina

- Upper Midlands Rural Health Network
- South Carolina Department of Public Health
- Medical University Hospital Authority (informal partner)

The South Carolina Triad focused their CHAN partnership on improving **community health data collection** to better serve rural communities in the state. They reviewed existing Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) and proposed improvements to data collection processes that emphasized meaningful community involvement at every stage. They aligned their approaches to community surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews and other needs assessment activities in Lancaster County and the surrounding rural communities. Partners were also included in broader conversations around how CHNAs are conducted statewide, giving them the opportunity to contribute their rural community perspective to the process.

Illinois

- Midwest Asian Health Association
- Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Aware Therapy

The Illinois Triad worked together to assess the needs of **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) families with children affected by autism and other developmental disabilities** in the greater Chicagoland area. Because this was their first formal collaboration, the organizations began by focusing on each partner's expertise and drafting agreements to clarify roles and guide the development of survey tools and activities. The triad convened a community advisory council, conducted a community needs assessment and created opportunities for local families to share their experiences through workshops, parenting classes and community outreach. The Illinois Triad built community trust and gathered critical information, and their findings are informing the design of an Autism Resource Center to help AAPI families overcome access and language barriers.

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Hawai'i
- The Institute for Human Services, Inc
- Hawai'i State Department of Health
- Queens Medical Center

The Hawai'i Triad worked to improve the **continuity of care for individuals experiencing homelessness** who frequently cycle through hospitals, shelters, mental health services, courts and other facilities. The organizations identified gaps in data sharing and collaboration across systems of care and drafted formal agreements outlining how patient data could be securely shared to inform and improve decision-making.

Working alongside a technology partner, the triad developed a **smartphone-based platform** designed to support authorized **information sharing** among participating systems, including health care, behavioral health, case management and other relevant service information, consistent with applicable privacy, security and data-sharing requirements.

The innovative platform developed by the Hawai'i Triad is intended to support a more coordinated approach to care by **reducing unnecessary duplication**, **strengthening discharge planning** and **supporting medication continuity**.

> "One of our goals is to improve coordination and collaboration within the state. This initiative aligns with statewide objectives, and it helps that there's a lot of trust in our partnerships."
>
> *Gavin Takenaka*
> *Hawai'i Department of Health*



Oregon
- The Highland Haven
- Multnomah County Health Department
- Northeast Healthcare Center

The Oregon Triad created Healthy Heart Hubs where medically **underserved communities** in Portland could access **cardiac health education, screening and preventive care**. Highland Haven developed a broad coalition for the work by bringing in local organizations to address the social and lifestyle factors that impact heart health by offering services like fresh produce delivery. Community insights and feedback were used to guide priorities around heart health education and prevention. The Multnomah County Health Department served as a strategic partner, connecting the project to county-level public health strategies while Northeast Healthcare Center contributed clinical expertise and access to healthcare systems and services.

The Oregon triad serves as a model for community-driven initiatives that strengthen collaboration and build trust between public health institutions and the people they serve.

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