



Evaluating the Accountable Communities of Health Initiative

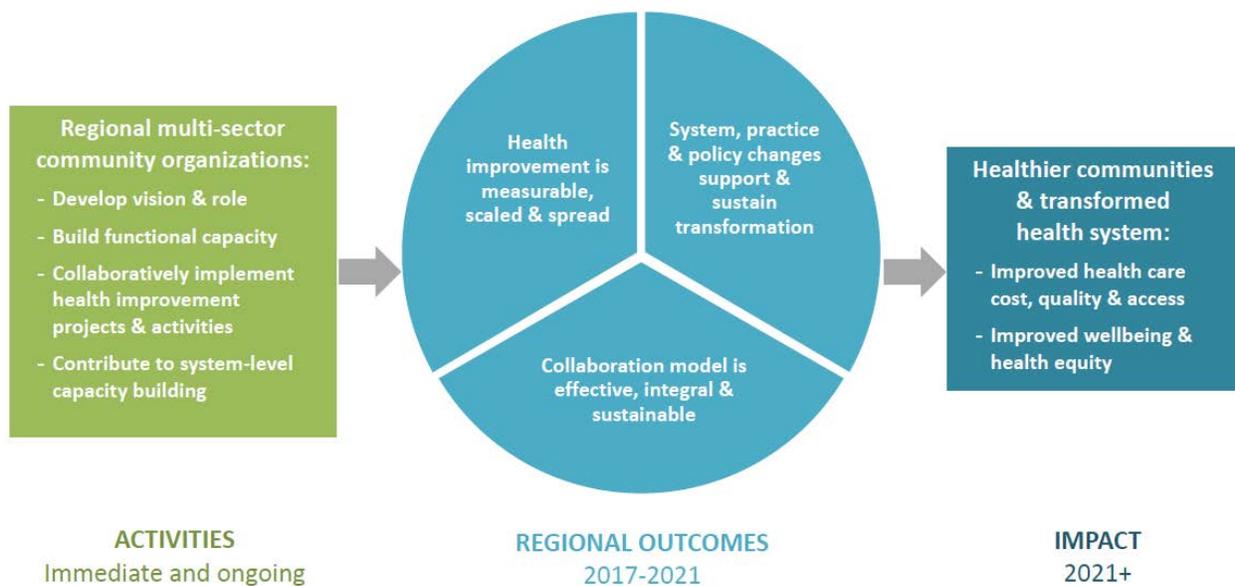
Center for Community Health and Evaluation

An Accountable Community of Health (ACH) is a group of people in a given geographic area representing entities from a variety of different sectors with a common interest in improving health. With support from the state government, nine ACHs have formally organized across Washington for the purpose of coordinating activities, jointly implementing new health related projects, and advising state agencies on how to best address health needs within their geographic area.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) has contracted with the Center for Community Health and Evaluation (CCHE) to evaluate statewide ACH development. CCHE aims to understand how ACHs come together, agree on community health priorities, engage in health improvement activities, contribute to the state's Healthier Washington initiative, and work towards becoming sustainable community organizations.

A cornerstone of the evaluation is working with HCA and the ACHs to describe how Healthier Washington envisions the ACHs will achieve their impact (summary visual below).

Accountable Communities of Health | Conceptual Model



Strategic Learning. As an evaluation partner, CCHE provides timely feedback from multiple data sources to Healthier Washington leaders and staff about success factors, challenges, and lessons learned to inform strategic learning about the development of the ACHs' role in Healthier Washington and in their regions. CCHE facilitates discussion with Healthier Washington staff and ACHs to support rapid cycle process improvement. This strategic learning focuses on identifying how Healthier Washington can support the ACHs' development and success in regional health improvement.

Understanding development and measuring outcomes. CCHE focuses on understanding the ACHs' organizational development, activities, and regional health improvement outcomes. The guiding questions of CCHE's evaluation examine a range of ACH outcomes associated with:

- The ACHs' development as multi-sector community organizations with the capacity to coordinate regional health improvement activities.
- The ACHs' implementation of collaborative projects and health care transformation policy and practice changes, as well as ACHs' contributions to statewide health system capacity building.
- The ACHs' ability to create a clear vision for their organizations, demonstrate their value, and become an integral, sustainable part of the health system.

Collecting data. CCHE gathers data from multiple sources to support strategic learning and track ACH development, capacity, activities, and outcomes. Data sources include:

- Site visits to all nine ACH regions to observe meetings and stakeholder engagement
- Interviews with staff, ACH board members, and ACH stakeholders to understand ACH development, regional activities, and ACH participation in state-level Healthier Washington activities
- Surveys of ACH board members and stakeholders to understand their perceptions of ACHs as community organizations
- Observation of meetings where ACH representatives from across the regions convene to discuss the statewide initiative, best practices and challenges
- Review of applications, proposals, and reports submitted by ACHs to Healthier Washington

CCHE's evaluation approach

When your goal is to improve community health, you have questions about what works. At the Center for Community Health and Evaluation (CCHE) we take a collaborative approach to help find the answers. We partner with coalitions, health departments, and many other organizations on evaluation planning, data collection, analysis, and reporting. Our approach emphasizes sharing data and evaluation findings with our clients when it is most helpful for their activities and decision-making.

For more information on the Accountable Communities of Health evaluation, please contact:

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