



As part of the *Healthier Washington Initiative*, the Health Care Authority began implementing Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) across the state in June of 2014. Under a new proposal, ACHs would distribute funds for innovative community based programs that could include housing linkages. Contact your ACH's housing representative to find out what it means for your organization.

A new opportunity for ACHs

The state is proposing that ACHs distribute new resources as part of their Medicaid Transformation initiative (1115 Global Medicaid Waiver). This transformation effort would also include funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and supported employment. Housing leaders can help their ACHs prepare to align these funds with existing housing funds and advocate for reinvestment of savings into other housing and services programs.

Examples of housing and homelessness collaborations

Many ACHs have already taken steps to align housing and health.



The **North Sound ACH** has implemented an initiative focused on enhanced collaboration and efficiency between care coordination programs and maximum engagement of underserved populations, including people who are homeless.

King County's ACH is supporting cross-sector initiatives including: Familiar Faces, focused on frequent customers of the jail and other emergency services, many of whom are homeless; and the Housing Health Partnership, focused on health promotion in public and affordable housing.

How to get involved:

Each ACH includes a representative from the housing and homelessness system who can provide information about how to get involved or stay up-to-date at the local level. Contact the ACH staff or housing representative in your area using the information listed on the following page.

Better Health Together, the ACH for northeast Washington, is using community health workers to coordinate care among different providers for homeless and other vulnerable populations.

The **Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance** has helped forge partnerships between the local homelessness coordinated entry system and Medicaid managed care organizations.

What is an Accountable Community of Health?

The health care sector alone cannot create the systemic change needed to improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable families and individuals. Building Changes supports ACHs as means to align housing and health systems in order to achieve shared goals; we have monitored their development statewide and supported representation from housing leaders. ACHs bring together clinical health care, payers, public health, housing and human services, and government entities to work toward clearly defined goals that support whole-person health. Cooperation can involve partnerships between housing and health care providers, creation of innovative cross-sector programs, and a role in state health care funding.

ACH and Backbone Organization	Counties	Contact Information
<u>Cascade Pacific Action Alliance</u> Supported by CHOICE Regional Health Network	Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston, Wahkiakum	Winfried Danke, (360) 539-7576 x116, dankew@chnr.org Housing rep: Tom Drake, Longview Housing Authority, tdrake@longviewha.org
<u>North Sound ACH</u> Supported by Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement	Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, Island	Lee Che Leong, (360) 788-6570, lpleong@hinet.org Housing rep: Greg Winter, Opportunity Council, greg_winter@whatcomhsc.org
<u>Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance</u>	Clark, Skamania and Klickitat	Vanessa Gaston, (360) 397-2130 x7821, vanessa.gaston@clark.wa.gov Housing rep: Andy Silver, Council for the Homeless, asilver@councilforthehomeless.org
<u>Better Health Together</u>	Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Adams	Alison Carl White, (509) 321-7500, alison@betterhealthtogether.org Housing rep: Pam Tietz, Spokane Housing Authority, ptietz@spokanehousing.org
<u>Pierce County Health Innovation Partnership</u> Supported by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	Pierce	June Lee, (253) 344-0610, jlee@tpchd.org Housing rep: Troy Christensen, MDC, tchristensen@mdc-hope.org
<u>Greater Columbia ACH</u> Supported by Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance	Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Whitman, Garfield, Asotin	Carol Moser, (509) 460-4584, cmoser@bfcha.org Housing rep: Rhonda Hauff, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, rhonda.hauff@ynhs.org
<u>North Central ACH</u> Supported by the Chelan-Douglas Health District	Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant	Barry Kling, (509) 886-6480, barry.kling@cdhd.wa.gov
<u>King County ACH</u> Supported by Public Health-Seattle & King County	King	Gena Morgan, (206) 263-8218, gena.morgan@kingcounty.gov Housing rep: Betsy Lieberman, betsy@betsylieberman.com
<u>Olympic Community of Health</u> Supported by Kitsap Public Health	Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap	Scott Daniels, (360) 337-5287, scott.daniels@kitsappublichealth.org Housing rep: Kurt Wiest, Bremerton Housing Authority, kwiest@bremertonhousing.org

Helpful links

For more information, contact:

Anna Markee, Senior Manager, Anna.Markee@BuildingChanges.org

For more information on Accountable Communities of Health and Washington's Medicaid Transformation Initiative, see the [Healthier Washington website](#)

For more information on housing and health intersections, see Building Changes' series of briefs, [Connecting the Dots Between Housing, Homelessness, and Health Care](#)