

Community Health and Equity Resources at the American Hospital Association

Community health encompasses nonclinical approaches for improving health, preventing disease and reducing health disparities by addressing social determinants of health in a geographically defined population.

The AHA's work in community health is guided by the AHA's Path Forward and the commitment to Advancing Health in America, which includes access, health, innovation and affordability.

Hospitals and health care systems are committed to **Advancing Health In America** through:



Access: Access to affordable, equitable health, behavioral and social services



Health: Focus on holistic well-being in partnership with community resources



Innovation: Seamless care propelled by teams, technology, innovation and data



Affordability: The best care that adds value to lives



Individual As Partner:
Recognize the diversity of individuals and serve as partners in their health

Learn more about the [Path Forward](#).

The AHA is focusing on several areas, including health equity and eliminating care disparities, violence and workplace safety, health system and community collaborations to advance health, and social determinants of health. AHA is working to build on this agenda through innovative campaigns and initiatives, strategic alliances, initiatives, publications and annual awards. Highlights from our work are described here.

ALLIANCES

Association for Community Health Improvement (ACHI)



ACHI is the premier national association for community health, community benefit and population health professionals. ACHI provides educational resources, professional development and networking opportunities that help professionals expand their knowledge and enhance their performance in achieving community health goals. The annual ACHI national conference convenes over 700 hospital and community health leaders to share best practices to advance the field.

Institute for Diversity and Health Equity



The Institute for Diversity and Health Equity leads the AHA's health equity, diversity and inclusion efforts. Founded in 1994, the Institute provides resources to hospitals and health care organizations to promote equitable health care through diversity and inclusion strategies.

Hospital Community Cooperative



The AHA's Hospital Community Cooperative (HCC) aims to make it easier for hospitals and community organizations to collaboratively develop and lead grassroots interventions that promote health equity. Funded in part by the Aetna Foundation, HCC involves local people working together to transform the conditions and outcomes that matter to their community. Ten teams, each made up of a lead hospital and one or more community-focused partner, are required to create health and wellness initiatives that address social determinants of health with measurable results.

Health Equity



The AHA has formed strategic alliances with leading organizations to advance health equity, diversity and inclusion in health care governance across the U.S. As part of the AHA's collaboration with National Urban League and Unidos US, the alliance will develop resources for the field, advocate for diversity in governance, share best practices and promote shared policy solutions to persistent challenges that affect the health of vulnerable communities. Additionally, the Healthy, Equitable and Resilient Communities initiative will showcase how diversity ensures the future of care by understanding and responding to the changing needs of communities and their health. [View Resources.](#)

Hospitals Against Violence



Hospitals Against Violence is an AHA initiative to elevate the importance of workplace and community violence prevention as a public health issue for hospitals and health systems address and respond to community violence, violence against their workforce and workplace safety. Other community violence initiatives include Combating Human Trafficking and Youth Violence Prevention. Visit [Hospitals Against Violence](#) and learn more about #HAVhope: National Day of Awareness.

Integrating Patient-Centered Outcomes Research into Hospital CHNAs



Funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, this project included the publication of two guides:

- **Engaging Patients and Communities in the Community Health Needs Assessment Process**
- **Applying Research Principles to the Community Health Needs Assessment Process**

Next Generation of Community Health



The AHA's 2016 Committee on Research was charged with exploring what the next generation of community health may look like as hospitals redefine themselves to keep pace with the changing health care landscape. The committee released this work in the form of a report, "Next Generation of Community Health."

Social Determinants of Health



The AHA is working to support hospitals and health systems as they address social determinants of health, eliminate health care disparities and provide comprehensive care to every patient in every community. The AHA developed a series of resources such as reports, case studies, webinars and videos to help hospital address various social determinants of health, including:



Food



Housing



Transportation

Physician Alliance in collaboration with the Physician Alliance, developed **Virtual Expedition Modules**, a series of videos on how clinicians and front line staff can use upstream interventions to address social determinants of health. Additionally, the AHA's Value Initiative resources help hospitals and health systems raise awareness about social determinants of health and provide guidelines to screen for social needs sensitively:

- **Addressing Social Determinants of Health Presentation**
- **Screening for Social Needs: Guiding Care Teams to Engage Patients**
- **ICD-10-CM Coding for Social Determinants**

For more resources, visit the [AHA's Population Health webpage](#).

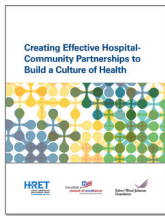
TOOLS

Community Health Assessment Toolkit



The **Community Health Assessment Toolkit** is a web-based resource offering a nine-step pathway to guide and support a robust, community-engaged health assessment process. The toolkit, funded as part of a grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Foundation, addresses the full cycle from assessment through implementation and provides strategies for each step of the process.

Creating a Culture of Health



Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this project is creating tools and developing strategies for strengthening the breadth and depth of hospital and community partnerships. This work includes multiple resources on effective hospital-community partnerships: “**Creating Effective Hospital-Community Partnerships to Build a Culture of Health**,” “**A Playbook for Fostering Hospital-Community Partnerships to Build a Culture of Health**,” and “**A Compendium of Case Studies**,” derived from a learning collaborative comprised of leaders from 10 diverse U.S. communities. The project also includes **CHNAFinder**, a groundbreaking website to serve an aggregate clearing house of community health needs assessments (CHNAs) and implementation strategies. The AHA collected over 3,000 CHNAs and coded them for priority needs identified and the partners involved in the assessment and implementation.

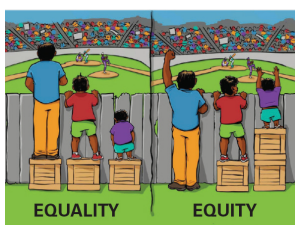
ISSUE BRIEFS

Making the Case for Hospitals to Invest in Housing



Given the inextricable link between affordable, quality housing and good health, housing is one area that hospitals and health systems are starting to focus on more and more. Accelerating Investments for Healthy Communities, an initiative led by the Center for Community Investment and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is helping hospitals refine their community investment strategies around affordable housing. The AHA and NORC at the University of Chicago are partnering to learn from the journeys of participating hospitals and sharing initial findings in this issue brief, **Making the Case for Hospitals to Invest in Housing**.

Connecting the Dots: Value and Health Equity



Achieving health equity requires a concerted effort to increase healthier opportunities for everyone. The Value Initiative’s issue brief examines the connection between value, affordability and equity, highlighting how hospitals are improving value by addressing social determinants of health and equity through community-based efforts.

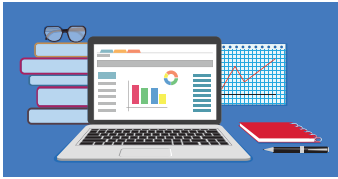
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Community Health Improvement Week



The AHA's Community Health Improvement Week is a national event to recognize and celebrate the important role hospitals, health systems and communities have in advancing health and well-being. The AHA releases multiple resources such as webinars, guides, blogs, etc. and shares success stories of community health initiatives from the field. These resources are available at aha.org/chiweek.

Infographics, Podcasts and More



The AHA has produced numerous other guides, toolkits, webinars, podcasts, case studies, infographics and articles on community health. View these resources at aha.org.

AWARDS



The AHA sponsors several annual awards to recognize individuals, programs and organizations that are leaders in community health. These include:

- **NOVA Award:** Honors effective, collaborative programs focused on improving community health status.
- **Foster G. McGaw Prize:** Recognizes hospitals that have distinguished themselves through efforts to improve the health and well-being of everyone in their communities.
- **Equity of Care Award:** Presented to hospitals and health systems that are noteworthy leaders and examples to the field in the area of equitable care.