



ENHANCING PANDEMIC RECOVERY THROUGH MULTISECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals experienced uncoordinated approaches to clinical and social needs. Multisector partnerships offer cost-effective, long-term solutions to this challenge and help communities ensure a swift and equitable pandemic recovery.

Featured Model: Multisector Partnerships

The current public health and economic crises call for coordinated solutions. Given their diverse expertise and strong community ties, local multisector partnerships are well positioned to bring sectors together in ways that meet health and social needs. These collaborations can address the root causes of health issues such as food insecurity, inaccessible transportation, and unsafe housing.

Existing multisector partnerships effectively align health care, public health, and social services. [The Funders Forum on Accountable Health](#) has identified more than 125 collaboratives, supported by public and philanthropic sources, that employ the Accountable Communities for Health model to foster cross-sector alignment. [The BUILD Health Challenge](#) is sponsoring similar partnerships in 21 states.

Effective multisector partnerships are:

- **Built by and for communities:** Multisector partnerships intentionally elevate the voices of community members to set priorities and solve issues. It is particularly important to listen to people from groups that have the hardest time thriving in their community. Key community partners including health care providers, public health officials, and leaders of community-based organizations also play a key role. BUILD Health Challenge's Maternal Upstream Management Program in Houston, for example, employs community leaders to foster trust between at-risk mothers and local health officials to improve maternal health outcomes.

Reducing Emergency Department Visits for Medicaid and Medicare Recipients

The federal government funds 29 multisector partnerships via CMS' Accountable Health Communities model, a program that connects Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries to appropriate services that meet their health-related social needs. **Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries in the program had 9% fewer emergency department visits in the first year.**

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, AHC First Evaluation Report

- **Accountable to those they serve:**

Successful initiatives include multiple sectors and residents in the decision-making process, leading to greater transparency and accountability. The Yamhill Community Care Organization in Oregon, engages community members in creating its community improvement plan. The plan—which includes measures for each strategy—determines how state and federal dollars are allocated in Yamhill County, ensuring funds are distributed based on community established priorities.

- **Often led by intermediary organizations:**

Many multisector partnerships are spearheaded by intermediary organizations such as local foundations and public health institutes that weave various funding streams and provide infrastructure to make programs sustainable. The Delta Health Alliance, a cross-sector collaborative in Mississippi, manages 29 initiatives working to improve health and education outcomes.

- **Promoting health and economic equity:**

On-the-ground practitioners know where disparities exist in their communities and can distribute resources equitably. For example, the Health Net of Western Michigan Accountable Health Community has developed targeted initiatives that used enhanced data sharing across sectors to identify communities most in need of food, shelter, and other necessities and deploy support accordingly.

- **Built to last:**

These partnerships become sustainable by pursuing a shared purpose, creating sustainable financing structures, building appropriate governance structures, and effectively using data among, other activities. With financing, for instance, diversified funding from community charities, local health departments, insurance plans, federal agencies, and other sources ensures the programs can continue after the term of a grant. Elevate Health of Pierce County, Washington, an Accountable Community for Health, leverages community development finances, hospital benefit dollars, the state's Medicaid Transformation Project, and other resources to extend access to health care and social services.

Helping People Find Work and Get Insured

The Renaissance West Community Initiative in North Carolina connects at-risk community members to vital social services including job training and affordable housing. Because of this BUILD Health Challenge effort, **30% of unemployed participants gained employment and 50% of uninsured participants now have health insurance.**

Source: BUILD Health Challenge, Charlotte Report

Aligning in Crisis is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-supported program that identifies existing cross-sector policy and implementation opportunities that can speed recovery from the triple crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic struggle, and the ongoing impact of systemic racism. To learn more, visit AlignForHealth.org/Crisis

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