

There are many health, government, community, faith and other organizations which provide services and programs with a goal of improving the health of their communities. When these programs and services are aligned, the network of programs and services across the community are easier to navigate, address gaps and improve well-being and health outcomes.

Not-for-profit hospitals are important partners for improving the health and well-being of communities. In alignment with their mission and their community benefit requirements, not-for-profit hospitals are working with their communities to address health equity and improve health outcomes.

Successful efforts start by developing key relationships for collaboration and partnerships. Here are five tips for getting started in aligning and partnering with your local not-for-profit hospital.

Tips For Getting Started



1. Read your local hospital's community health needs assessment (CHNA) & implementation strategy (IS)

<i>What are the hospitals identified priority health needs?</i>
<i>What is the date of the community health needs assessment (CHNA)?</i>
<i>What are their plans to improve community health?</i>
<i>What is the time period of the community health implementation strategy (IS)?</i>



2. Become familiar with your hospital's community benefit structure

<i>Who are your contacts?</i> <i>Note: Titles can vary: Community Benefit, Community Impact, Mission, Population Health Community Outreach</i>
<i>How will you connect? (share written comments on their CHNA, email, call, partner connection)</i>



3. Share your vision goals and plans with your hospital

Where do your plans align?

How are you currently working together?

What's possible?



4. Meet and discuss

Look for ways to share information, collaborate, partner and support each other's goals; Look for the Win-Win

What are the community needs is your organization is seeing?

What do you want?

How can you support?

What can you do together?



5. Align efforts and Assess, Plan & Do Together

How can I partner and support the CHNA & IS?

What activities and projects can be supportive and/or shared?

How can we share information and data to support community health improvement?

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