



# Health Care & Population Health

The Public Health Institute is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life throughout California, across the nation and around the world.

Access to high-quality, affordable health care is critical in creating healthier populations. Yet much of what makes people healthy is determined outside the doctor's office—from housing and safety to education and employment.

That's why physicians today investigate housing conditions to prevent asthma, why banks invest in childcare centers, and why hospitals address hunger in neighboring communities.

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# Our Approach

To ensure successful collaboration and better health, PHI brings together a broad cross-section of partners. PHI programs help align resources, guide strategic investments, and uncover financing and payment mechanisms that make healthcare—and health—accessible, affordable and effective. For everyone.



Create coalitions of communities, innovators, funders, public health professionals and others to explore new tools and practices, and to develop pioneering solutions



Build capacity of local leaders, organizations, health departments and others to address root causes of health and facilitate quality improvement



Facilitate the production, adoption and adaptation of tools, resources and solutions by communicating what works



Advance policy solutions that improve health care delivery and help prevent disease by addressing the social determinants of health

# Our Priority



## Building Health Equity

The Build Healthy Places Network lifts up models of collaboration between the community development sector, banks, businesses, hospitals and public health for more efficient and effective impact in communities with high concentrations of poverty and health inequities.

# Our Work

**Bringing Innovation to Scale** — Using design thinking, participatory leadership and other ‘start-up’ approaches, PHI’s Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL) designed and facilitated a learning lab for 10 Vermont Hospital Service Area sites, aiding their quest to become Accountable Communities of Health (ACH). In 2017, PHIL launched and facilitated a similar ACH process in California, supporting 10 new sites.

**Elevating the Role of CHWs** Community health workers (CHWs) are among the best resources hospitals have to improve population health. The California Health Workforce Alliance offers hospitals recommendations for improving population health by integrating CHWs into team-based primary care in *Community Health Workers in California: Sharpening Our Focus on Strategies to Expand*. And thanks to CA4Health’s CHW initiative, **263,000 Californians have accessed chronic disease services.**

## Helping Hospitals Tackle Hunger

PHI’s Kevin Barnett works with hospitals to make benefit dollars more impactful. With examples from food policy councils, food banks and health departments, the ***Making Food Systems Part of Your Community Health Needs Assessment*** guide points to existing sources of data and case studies of collaborations between hospitals and food system stakeholders.

## Improving Health Access, Quality & Equity

— In California’s Bay Area, the East Bay Health Workforce Partnership works with **leading health employers, workforce development boards, schools, and public health and community stakeholders** to build a pathway system that helps local youth move into health professions. By developing equitable pathways to rewarding health careers, the partnership simultaneously strengthens the health workforce and improves community health.

## Reducing Hospitalization Costs

PHI’s Regional Asthma Management and Prevention program advances the incorporation of evidence-based prevention activities in health care policies and practices. RAMP has worked to improve Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) staff knowledge of asthma interventions that improve health outcomes and reduce utilization, **which will impact 1.1 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries** diagnosed with asthma.

## Supporting Hospitals Engaging in Population Health

— In a 2015 population health survey of hospitals conducted by PHI, the Association for Community Health Improvement and the American Hospital Association, **85% of hospitals reported a commitment to population health**, yet less than 20% strongly agreed that they had programs to address the social determinants of health.

“Engaging community health workers as critically important members of the primary care team is one of the most important strategies available to us.”

—Mary A. Pittman, DrPH, PHI President & CEO

From *Bringing Community Health Workers into the Mainstream of U.S. Health Care*, a discussion paper for the Institute of Medicine

For more examples of our work, visit [phi.org](http://phi.org).