



*Build  
Accountable  
Communities of  
Health (ACH)*

## Accountable Communities of Health

Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) are where public and private entities come together to work on shared health goals.

ACHs address health needs where they occur—at the local level. ACHs are based on the notion that health is more than health care, and will focus on issues that affect health, such as education, income, housing, and access to care.

### What will ACHs do?

An ACH brings together community services, social services and public health strategies in supportive environments to address the needs of the whole person. The Healthier Washington initiative, in alignment with the creation of ACHs, integrates purchasing on a regional basis to bring down costs and pay for value.

A successful ACH will:

- Build upon existing community-based health improvement coalitions, leveraging and enhancing the relationships, commitments, and initiatives already in place to ensure a diverse, multi-sector approach to health and health care.
- Strengthen community linkages between the local health care delivery system, public health, and others who influence a community's physical and social environments.
- Connect health innovation and transformation efforts at the state and local levels.
- Be a resource that health plans draw upon as they transition from payment for particular health care services to payment for improved outcomes.

### How does an ACH fit within the Healthier Washington initiative?

The ACH initiative is essential for the success of Healthier Washington. ACHs coordinate and align priorities across programs and partners at the regional level.

## How will an ACH make things better?

When a community works together to improve public health, the health care delivery system will realize better services, lower costs and have greater access to community resources that will result in better health and wellness for everyone. Overall, communities will be happier and healthier.

## Where are the ACHs located?

As the drivers of health system transformation, ACHs will consider and reflect the specific characteristics and needs within their regional service areas (RSAs) for Medicaid purchasing of physical and behavioral health care. As such, ACH regions identified in the ACH map below align with RSA boundaries.



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Learn more about Accountable Communities of Health:  
[www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/communities\\_of\\_health.aspx](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/communities_of_health.aspx)