

The Common Health Challenge: Catalyst Awards FAQ

What is the Common Health Coalition?

The Common Health Coalition brings together leading health organizations in pursuit of a reimagined health system: one in which the nation's health care and public health systems no longer work in parallel, but hand in hand – with better health for all as the common goal. Learn more about the Coalition at commonhealthcoalition.org.

What is the Common Health Challenge?

The Common Health Challenge is a new, annual call-to-action for Coalition members to rally around a critical health system-wide issue for which the solution relies on improved partnership between health care and public health. To learn more about the Common Health Challenge and the focus for 2025, please visit Commonhealthcoalition.org/Challenge.

How can my organization participate in the Challenge?

Go to Commonhealthcoalition.org/Challenge and complete the Challenge sign up form.

What are the Catalyst Awards?

The Catalyst Awards fund organizations that demonstrate a strong capacity to integrate Community Health Workers (CHWs) in ways that strengthen partnerships between health care and public health in communities. Awardees will contribute to a nationwide movement aimed at bridging the health care and public health sectors.

Awardees will propose locally based initiatives that can demonstrate significant progress in 1 year and support the establishment of sustainable relationships between health care and public health service providers. Ten organizations will be selected to receive a Catalyst Award of \$30,000.

Catalyst Award organizations will:

- be invited to participate in a Community of Practice,
- receive technical assistance to support their efforts to strengthen partnerships and CHW integration in health care and public health systems, and
- showcase their successes and lessons learned through nationally disseminated events and materials.

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How can I nominate an organization for a Catalyst Award?

The Coalition welcomes nominations for a Catalyst Award **through February 3, 2025**.

- All organizations nominated for a Catalyst Award will be invited to join a Community of Practice.
- Self-nominations will be accepted.
- Nominators are not limited to only nominating one organization.

The Coalition will then review nominations and invite applications for further consideration to receive a Catalyst Award.

What is the process to receive an award?

1. Nomination of eligible organizations (self-nominations are welcome)
2. Invitation to apply
3. Awards made to selected organizations

What are the eligibility criteria?

An organization is eligible for nomination if it:

- Has experience implementing initiatives related to community health, public health, or related health care collaboration and/or sustainability efforts.
- Is in the United States or a U.S. territory.
 - The United States includes the 48 contiguous states, Hawaii, Alaska, and Washington D.C.
 - U.S. territories include Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa
- Is an Educational institution, Nonprofit organization, For-Profit organization, State or Local government entity, Tribal entity, Public Housing Authority, Community-based organization, or Faith-based organization.
 - Public or State controlled Institutions of Higher Education
 - Private Institutions of Higher Education
 - Independent School Districts
 - Nonprofits with 501(c)3 IRS Status
 - Nonprofits without 501(c)3 IRS Status
 - Health care / public health organizations
 - State / County / City or Township / Special District Governments
 - Indian / Native American Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations
 - Public Housing Authorities / Indian Housing Authorities
 - Community-based / Faith-based organizations

The Coalition will not accept nominations from:

- Individuals (individuals CAN nominate an organization)
- Federal government agencies
- Organizations outside the U.S. or one of its territories

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What are the Coalition's priorities for Catalyst Awardee activities?

The Coalition seeks Catalyst Awardees that demonstrate:

- **Advancing partnership:** Commitment to work to advance health care and public health partnerships.
- **Organization readiness:** Preparedness and capability to effectively implement CHW-focused initiatives that enhance collaboration between health care services and public health efforts.
- **Past Performance:** Proven track record in community health, public health collaboration, or related initiatives.
- **Commitment to Equity:** Demonstrated dedication to health equity and underserved communities.
- **Health care and public health partnership plan:** Clear and actionable plan for how the organization will use award funding to strengthen partnerships between health care and public health supporting sustainable CHW integration.

How can my organization apply for a Catalyst Award?

In February 2025, a select number of nominated organizations will receive an invitation to apply.

Applications are due by March 14, 2025 at 11:59 pm PT.

What should the Catalyst Award Health care and Public Health Partnership Plan support?

The Coalition expects that Catalyst Awardees will use funds for activities that result in tangible progress in forming partnerships between health care and public health organizations that advance community health worker initiatives. The Coalition welcomes innovative ideas from organizations applying for the Catalyst Awards that align with the purpose of the Challenge.

Activity examples are described below.

- Facilitate the development of formal memorandums of agreement between organizations or an action plan to develop a joint community health worker sharing agreement
- Implement a community needs assessment to inform implementation of a community health worker outreach initiative
- Implement an education program on the value and role of Community Health Workers for public health and healthcare organizations
- Advance implementation activities of previously established joint-led Community Health Worker initiative supported by locally-based health care and public health service organizations
- Facilitate the development and implementation of data sharing agreements between public health and health care organizations on Community Health Worker services

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- Develop tools and resources, informed by prior successes and challenges, to support expansion of Community Health Worker initiatives throughout the local area.
- Mobilize Community Health Workers for health crisis response, using data and population needs information from local health department(s) and hospitals
- Utilize intel from Community Health Workers as early/real-time detection for exacerbation of health issues on the ground, including but not limited to foodborne illness, infectious disease, and overdose deaths, and use this information to drive both policy and clinical guidelines interventions.

The list above is not exhaustive and it is possible for an awardee to implement multiple activities with the resources provided.

Catalyst Award funds should not be used for capital investments, equipment investments greater than \$5,000, client medical services (e.g., medications, treatment, medical equipment), and lobbying activities.

What is the Challenge Community of Practice?

All organizations nominated for Catalyst Awards will be invited to join the 2025 Challenge Community of Practice. The Community of Practice (CoP) is dedicated to building and enhancing effective CHW programs. Within this CoP, participants will collaborate, exchange insights, and refine their approaches to CHW integration, all contributing to a nationwide movement aimed at bridging the health care and public health sectors.

The CoP will offer virtual quarterly peer-to-peer learning exchange opportunities. The Coalition will identify lead discussants to share lessons learned from existing Community Health Worker initiatives. The Coalition will host a virtual, private communication hub for sharing resources, tools, and facilitating discussions amongst CoP members. The Coalition will provide regular newsletter updates to the CoP.

What technical assistance will the Coalition provide to the Catalyst Awardees?

The Coalition will tailor technical assistance to awardees based on the specific needs of each organization providing support to mitigate potential barriers to success. The Coalition anticipates that technical assistance may include, but is not limited to facilitating opportunities for the awardee to learn from national and local leaders that have successfully implemented Community Health Worker initiatives, provision of tools and resources tailored to the awardee's needs, and support for sustainability planning to ensure that progress may with the Catalyst Award can continue in future years.

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Is there flexibility for Catalyst Awardees to utilize award funds or finish the proposed work beyond the 12-month period if challenges arise?

The Coalition will monitor awardee progress on a case-by-case basis and technical assistance will be available to support awardee success. The Partner Resource Utilization Plan submitted as part of the Catalyst Award application will help determine each awardee's anticipated scope of work and success will focus more on strengthened partnerships than specific implementation activities, which can be flexible.

What are the reporting responsibilities for Catalyst Awardees?

More information about Catalyst Awardee reporting responsibilities will be included in the invitation to apply. No written reports will be required but the Coalition will engage awardees in other ways to track progress and offer support. Engagements might look like sharing a success story, contributing to a newsletter or webinar, and participating in the Community of Practice.

Our organization has multiple departments / programs that could benefit from Catalyst Award funds - are we able to submit multiple nominations or applications?

If an organization receives multiple nominations, the nominations will be combined and the organization considered once during the nomination process. Nominated organizations invited to apply for a Catalyst Award will be able to submit one application. Reach out to the Coalition with any questions about your nomination or application.

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Please describe some examples on the types of organizations that may be a good fit for nominations.

A community-based organization serving a single entity

- A community-based organization is in a partnership with an independent school district to integrate CHWs into a school-based mental health team addressing urban trauma. The school district nominates the community-based organization for a Catalyst Award because they are looking to establish a relationship with local ERs and the local health department to inform early detection / response to community health issues like overdose deaths.

A health system serving one or more town, county or city

- A health system serving several rural counties self-nominates to enhance their relationship with a Public Housing Authority. They have implemented a Community Health Worker program with the PHA to conduct SDOH risk-assessments, connect residents to services, and provide health management education, including information about vaccines. With Catalyst Award funding they seek to expand the work to include a partnership with the local health department's immunization registry, and develop tools and resources to share successes and challenges and support expansion of CHW initiatives.

A public health institute serving a statewide population

- A local health department nominates a public health institute for a Catalyst Award to facilitate the development of formal memorandums of agreements between organizations implementing Community Health Worker integration into care teams at maternal / child health HUBs established to address maternity care deserts and increase access to maternal health resources and clinical care.

A joint program between a public health department and public hospital system

- A county health department self-nominates their partnership with the county's public hospital system to expand the work of a pilot started to reduce pediatric asthma emergency room admissions. Community Health Workers are jointly employed by both entities to staff the emergency room, where they work with families to identify potential environmental triggers for asthma and then arrange for in-home inspections by the health department for environmental exposures. The CHWs work between the two entities to ensure the children and their families have the services and care they need to avoid future ED visits due to asthma exacerbations.