

The 2026 Common Health Challenge FAQ

Last updated January 13, 2026

Interested in Applying for a Catalyst Award?

Use the resources to the right to help guide your application.

Reach out to us at info@commonhealthcoalition.org for additional assistance or if you have any questions about the application process or your organization's eligibility.

Catalyst Award Application Resources:

- [2026 Challenge Webinar Recording](#)
- [Self-Check Eligibility Assessment](#)
- [Request for Applications](#)
- [Application Template](#)
- [Budget Template](#)

What is the Common Health Coalition?

The Common Health Coalition is a first-of-its-kind collaboration spanning clinician groups, health departments, hospitals, payers, and community organizations. By uniting leaders who rarely share the same table, we turn alignment into action at a scale no single sector can reach, and transform relationships into results for people and communities.

Founded in 2023 by the Alliance of Community Health Plans, AHIP, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and Kaiser Permanente, the Coalition now represents more than 300 members across 45 states and territories. Learn more by visiting commonhealthcoalition.org and follow on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

What is the Common Health Challenge?

The annual Common Health Challenge is designed to elevate and advance timely, actionable, and scalable solutions that strengthen collaborations between public health and healthcare systems.

The Challenge consists of 3 components:

- Grant funding via the **Catalyst Awards** for vanguard organizations
- The creation of a **Community of Practice** (CoP) to elevate and learn from existing efforts,
- A **call to action** for all Coalition members to advance activities aligned with the Challenge's focus area within their own communities

The [2025 Challenge](#) advanced the model of integrating Community Health Workers (CHWs) as trusted professionals who serve as bridges between public health and health care organizations to better meet community needs.

What are the Catalyst Awards?

The Catalyst Awards fund vanguard organizations that demonstrate a strong capacity to advance the Common Health Challenge in ways that strengthen partnership between health care and public health in their community. Awardees will contribute to a nationwide movement aimed at bridging the health care and public health sectors.

Through the 2025 Challenge, 11 CHW initiatives were awarded more than \$400,000 to support their respective locally-based initiatives. Learn about our 2025 Catalyst Awardees [here](#).

Do organizations need to sign up for the Challenge each year?

Yes, to participate in the annual Challenge, organizations need to sign up each year by either applying for that year's Catalyst Awards, joining that year's Community of Practice, and/or "Taking the Challenge".

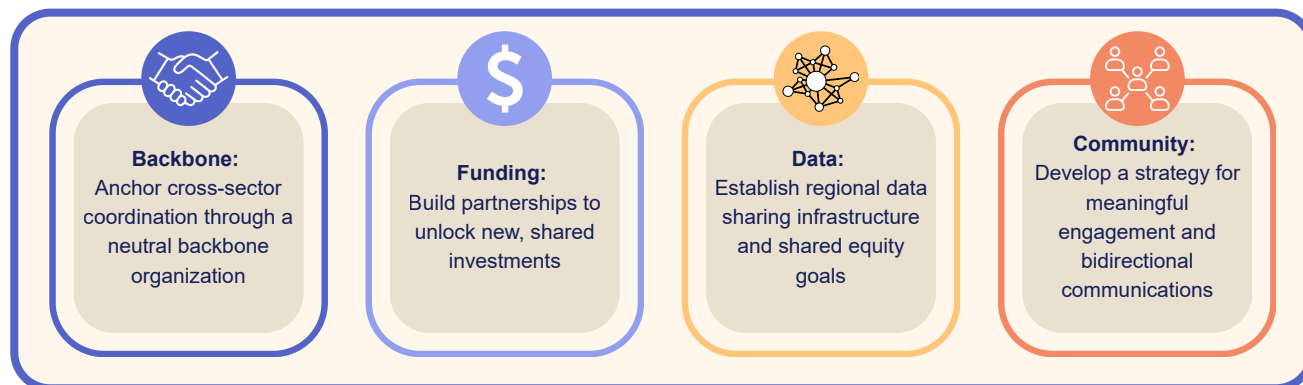
Once an organization joins as a *Coalition member*, they stay a member. But each annual Challenge is unique, so organizations have to engage directly with each Challenge from year to year. You can commit to Take the Challenge for 2026 [here](#).

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How will the 2026 Catalyst Awardees be selected?

Awardees will be selected based on their ability to advance **Regional Action Networks** (RANs) through four pillars:



The Coalition will grant at least \$500,000 in Catalyst Awards to vanguard organizations to help them start, expand, or scale this work. Particular priority will be given to seeding and uplifting Regional Action Networks in parts of the country where such collaborations are not yet formalized.

Exactly what qualifies as meeting each of the four pillars of a Regional Action Network?

The four pillars are intended to define a model of regional public health and health care collaboration, but these pillars are intentionally broad – we don't want to be overly prescriptive as this could look different across communities. *Reach out to us if you are not sure your existing regional network or network vision qualifies.*

To apply for a Catalyst Awards, applicants' regional networks only need to have 1 or more of the 4 pillars in place. Your application proposal should detail how the Catalyst Award will support the implementation or enhancement of 1 or more of the pillars to advance the regional network's sustainability and impact.

Do Catalyst Award proposals need to result in a finished tool or intervention within the 12-month award period?

Not necessarily – your proposed outcome will depend on your pillar(s) of focus and whether you're creating, enhancing, or scaling your regional network. Catalyst Award funding is focused on supporting activities that strengthen partnerships between public health and health care – that's the primary context that should ground your proposed outcomes. By the end of the award period the RAN should be in a stronger position for sustainability and impact. For example, an outcome might look like establishing data sharing agreements between health care and public health systems that coordinate data across the region.

How should proposed impact measures tie into the 4 pillars?

Refer to the [Request for Applications](#) for additional guidance around Evaluation and Reporting. The direct impact of the proposed activities should be on the strength and sustainability of regional public health and health care collaborations. The expected impact on patients and communities will come from the results of those strengthened partnerships, so in the context of the Catalyst Award we're interested in knowing how you will measure success toward advancing your pillar(s) and what is the expected impact of those changes on patients and communities.

If your goal is to advance your data pillar by establishing data sharing agreements and identifying shared equity goals - how would you track your progress and what will those changes allow you to do for patients and/or communities that your RAN couldn't do before?

How is “regional” defined within a Regional Action Network?

A RAN must serve either:

- Three or more towns, counties, cities, tribes, or territories
- Three or more states
- Two or more regions