

COMMON HEALTH COALITION AWARDS MORE THAN \$700,000 TO 5 REGIONAL ACTION NETWORKS THROUGH THE COMMON HEALTH CHALLENGE

New York, NY — The [Common Health Coalition](#) today announced the recipients of this year's Catalyst Awards, strategic funding to vanguard organizations to help them start, expand, or scale Regional Action Networks, as part of this year's [Common Health Challenge](#). Regional Action Networks are collaborations between health care and public health organizations working across geographic borders and sectors to tackle shared priorities, improving health outcomes for patients and communities. The five awardee organizations will receive a total amount of \$712,000 to advance their Regional Action Network.

“Across the country, states and regions are showing what is possible when public health, health care, and community partners come together with shared purpose,” said **Dr. Dave A. Chokshi, Chair of the Common Health Coalition**. “This year's Catalyst Awardees reflect a diversity of topics, from strengthening youth mental health to advancing public health infrastructure. Regional Action Networks demonstrate that the most effective solutions are often locally-led, cross-sector, and purpose-built to meet the realities of the communities they serve.”

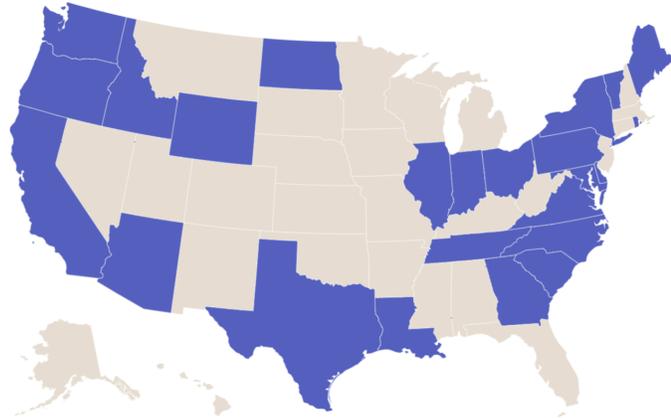
“Across the country, our 2026 Catalyst Awardees are bringing tremendous creativity, ambition, and commitment to tackling some of the most pressing health challenges facing their communities,” said **Chelsea Cipriano, Managing Director of the Common Health Coalition**. “From rural regions to urban centers, these Regional Action Networks are operationalizing the kinds of cross-sector partnerships that enable the sharing of priorities, data, funding, and strategy, ultimately making the health system work better for the patients and families it serves. We are proud to support these organizations as they advance solutions that are responsive to local and regional needs.”

The awardee organizations span the country, operating in rural and urban communities, and represent state-based and regional collaborations. Their work serves a broad range of populations and health needs. All recipient organizations are committed to strengthening partnerships across public health and health care with the Catalyst Award funds.



The Common Health Coalition is committed to supporting and connecting this work beyond the Catalyst Awards, recognizing that sustained impact requires ongoing collaboration, shared learning, and alignment across regions. In partnership with national and regional efforts the Coalition will continue to invest in the infrastructure that enables Regional Action Networks to thrive, including forthcoming work with state-based and multi-state coalitions. This includes supporting locally led efforts in additional states and regions through a national Community of Practice, targeted technical assistance, and ongoing thought partnership. The Coalition is also committed to lifting up and amplifying innovative work happening across the country so it can be adapted, replicated, and scaled in other communities.

Nearly 30 organizations across 24 states and Washington, DC have committed to taking the Common Health Challenge. All organizations are welcome to take the Challenge – reflecting a shared commitment to this approach at a national scale and a recognition that meeting the health needs of Americans today requires working together across sectors, regions, and communities.



The Catalyst Award review process was facilitated by the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI), the Coalition’s partner in the annual Common Health Challenge, and supported by members of the de Beaumont Foundation and CDC Foundation.

“Meaningful progress depends on strong partnerships grounded in collaboration and equity, and Regional Action Networks represent exactly the kind of cross-sector infrastructure needed to meet today’s health challenges,” said **Michael Rhein, President and CEO of IPHI**. “This year’s Catalyst Awardees are building strong, practical partnerships between public health and health care that can improve outcomes in communities across the country. IPHI is honored to support this year’s Catalyst Award process, and we’re proud to partner with the Common Health Coalition on such an important initiative.”

About the 2026 Catalyst Awardees

[Common Roots Health Exchange](#) (NC)

This initiative brings together partners across four rural North Carolina counties to strengthen care, improve coordination of behavioral health and substance use services, and address social needs like food access. It will establish shared governance, data systems, and a closed-loop referral model to ensure more accountable, coordinated care for children and families.

[Maine Youth Public Mental Health](#) (ME)

This statewide Youth Public Mental Health Regional Action Network aligns health care and public health with schools and communities - creating coordinated prevention, shared data, and equitable support, positioning Maine as a national model for improving youth public mental health outcomes.

[Northwest Healthcare Response Network](#) (WA)

This statewide network leads healthcare, public health, and emergency response partners across most of Washington State to strengthen healthcare preparedness and response to public health emergencies. It will identify gaps and needs of rural health providers and improve their integration into healthcare emergency preparedness, situational awareness, and emergency response coordination.

[Southern Alliance for Public Health Leadership](#) (GA, NC, SC, TN)

This multi-state network equips public health leaders with tools, data, and strategies to improve access to care, vaccination rates, and maternal and child health outcomes. It will expand community-based workforce capacity, strengthen data and communication systems, and align policy and systems strategies across the region.

[North Dakota Multi-Partner Health Collaborative](#) (ND)

This statewide collaborative advances North Dakota's health improvement priorities by strengthening workforce, expanding access, and building community resilience, especially in rural and underserved areas. It will deepen coalition-building, align partners around shared goals, and translate community-driven data into coordinated action across the state.

About 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 health care systems. The Challenge consists of grant funding via the Catalyst Awards for vanguard organizations, the creation of a community of practice to elevate and learn from existing efforts, and a call to action for all 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. Through the 2025 Challenge, 11 vanguard CHW initiatives around the country were awarded more than \$400,000 to support their respective locally-based initiatives.

About The Common Health Coalition

The Common Health Coalition is the largest multi-sector 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 almost 400 members across nearly every state in the country. Learn more by visiting commonhealthcoalition.org and follow on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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