

Center for Health Improvement

CHI is a national, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving population health and encouraging healthy behaviors.

What We Do

CHI provides comprehensive support to help public and private organizations across the country effect lasting change in their efforts to prevent disease and promote health. We don't just concentrate on a single strategy, condition, or life stage. Instead, we focus our efforts across the entire lifespan—from Healthy Children to Healthy Worksites to Healthy Seniors—supporting health promotion, disease prevention, health care quality, and chronic disease management.

Our Approach

CHI emphasizes primary and secondary prevention and community-based health promotion to attack the underlying causes of America's increasingly unhealthy population. We employ a systems approach, using evidence-based analyses to translate knowledge gained through research into policies and practice, supporting community-based programs that target change at multiple levels, and crafting broad awareness-raising strategies to disseminate information and encourage adoption. Our support involves four interrelated activities to make campaigns successful:

- Applying Research
- Analyzing Health Policy & Training Advocates
- Supporting Community Programs
- Generating Awareness

Our Services

Applied Research & Analysis

- To help decision-makers develop strategies and set priorities, we perform formative research that informs new directions
- To evaluate program effectiveness, we coordinate

quantitative and qualitative measurement through stakeholder surveys, focus groups, and interviews

- To assess consumer perspectives on health and health care services, we conduct large-scale public-opinion surveys

Program Support & Technical Assistance

- To help organizations develop, improve, and sustain their community programs, we provide consulting, training, and facilitation services
- To translate research and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange in targeted communities, we build and maintain vibrant learning networks
- To help organizations achieve quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in their health promotion and disease prevention interventions, we plan, implement, and evaluate programs

Policy Analysis & Advocacy Training

- To educate policy-makers and policy-shapers, and encourage dialogue about policies that could lead to better health, we analyze scientific research and examine innovative community practices
- To examine important health issues and promote evidence-based solutions, we facilitate statewide and regional collaboratives and forums
- To effect policy change and encourage sensible regulations that influence community health, we work to empower community and state-level advocates

To learn how CHI can help your organization, visit www.chipolicy.org or contact us at 916.930.9200.



**Center for
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Promoting Sound Policies & Healthy Communities
1330 21st Street, Ste. 100, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 916.930.9200
www.chipolicy.org

Support for Community Programs

The Center for Health Improvement helps organizations in the public and private sectors strengthen their capacity to develop, improve, and sustain their efforts to promote healthy behaviors and enhance the public's health at the community level.

CHI provides technical assistance to help organizations with formative research, planning, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability.

Applied Research: CHI performs gap analyses, needs assessments, baseline surveys, and environmental scans to help organizations develop strategies and set priorities, as well as conducts surveys and focus groups to inform program management and evaluation efforts.

- CHI conducted comprehensive market scans in 17 communities across the country for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Aligning Forces for Quality program to evaluate major attributes that well-functioning health care markets need to create sustainable quality of care.

Strategic Planning: CHI provides individualized consulting that includes analyzing program strengths, assets, and gaps, and identifying evidence-based models and strategies to help organizations develop effective and sustainable programs to prevent disease and enhance population health.

- CHI assessed the health needs of San Diego children, providing the San Diego First 5 Commission with recommendations for opportunities to leverage resources and enhance funding for sustainability.

Program Development: CHI's customized technical assistance includes facilitating the sharing of knowledge among large groups of participants employing a variety of tools, including workshops, local, statewide, and national meetings, training, direct mentoring, distance learning, decision guides, and online resources. CHI's expertise also extends to full-scale development of health promotion and prevention interventions.

- CHI created dynamic learning networks focusing on leading-edge issues of quality improvement for dozens of multi-stakeholder collaboratives in nationwide programs for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Evaluation: CHI examines processes, goals, and outcomes to evaluate program success and to improve effectiveness.

- CHI implemented a worksite wellness program at the California's Department of Health Services that was evaluated by surveying employees to measure the effectiveness of the physical, environmental, and social intervention elements in improving health. Findings led the agency to institutionalize the program.



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Health Policy & Advocacy Training

Health policy is a centerpiece of the Center for Health Improvement's work. Through collaborations with community-based organizations, and state and national officials, CHI identifies emerging issues, facilitates discussions of policy options, and analyzes the effectiveness of various policies.

CHI grounds policy analyses in evidenced-based research, or, where none exists, works with key stakeholders to identify and agree upon promising practices. CHI also provides skills-building through in-person training on policy and advocacy for those seeking to understand and become effective participants in the policy process at state or local levels.

Research & Policy Analysis: CHI analyzes data and trends, and conducts research to assess public opinion and evaluate the impact of legislation.

- CHI examined the effectiveness of patient–pharmacist consults mandated for all new or changed prescriptions through surveys and focus groups of pharmacists and older Californians. CHI shared its findings through a policy roundtable and a published policy brief.
- CHI worked in partnership with the North Carolina Institute of Medicine to organize several statewide task force meetings to lay the groundwork for a program of state employee incentives to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and behavioral changes. This project led to the establishment of a new health promotion initiative sponsored by the State Teachers and Employees Health Plan in North Carolina.

Community Collaboratives: CHI facilitates regional, statewide, and national collaboratives that employ a dynamic process to accelerate systems change incubated at the grassroots level. Collaboratives test ideas, strategies, and tools, while sharing knowledge and lessons learned. The most successful field-tested

and measurable strategies and tools may be introduced rapidly throughout the collaborative members' programs.

- CHI facilitated statewide collaboratives designed to improve screening and diagnosis of children suspected of having autistic spectrum disorder.

Advocacy Training: CHI develops customized advocacy training and tools for individuals and groups that cover such topics as how the legislative process works, how and when to interact with policy-makers and policy-shapers, methods for developing communications campaigns and effective media advocacy, and techniques for building leadership in the community.

- CHI trained 60 local public health department/community-based organization partnerships throughout California on how to engage with the legislative process to advance their public health causes. The efforts of one of these organizations led to incorporation of its ideas in legislation introduced in the California State Assembly.

Educating Policy-makers & Encouraging Discussion:

CHI presents forums, convenes roundtables and workshops, and publishes briefs that relate important research and real-world experience to health policy.

- CHI hosts health policy forums to provide an independent platform for education, idea sharing, and conversations among the country's most knowledgeable people in health care and legislative and agency staff.
- CHI leads a coalition of organizations that focuses on sound public health policy and advocacy to improve California's approach to viral hepatitis.



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Select Partners & Funders

The Center for Health Improvement has built a national reputation for working in partnership with government, community and advocacy organizations, philanthropic foundations, educators, and businesses to promote health and prevent disease across the country.

Private Foundations

California HealthCare Foundation
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Marin Institute
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Sierra Health Foundation
The California Wellness Foundation
The California Endowment
Tides Foundation

Federal Government

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

State Government

California Board of Pharmacy
California Children and Families Commission (First 5)
California Department of Developmental Services
California Department of Health Care Services
California Department of Public Health
California Department of Managed Health Care
North Carolina Institute of Medicine
State of Nevada (Healthy Nevada)

Local Government

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Monterey County Children and Families Commission
San Joaquin County Children and Families Commission
First 5 San Mateo County
First 5 Ventura County Children and Families First Commission
First 5 Yolo County Children and Families Commission

Nonprofit Organizations

AARP, Sacramento
American Institutes for Research
American Liver Foundation
Bridges to Excellence
California Center for Public Health Advocacy
California Children and Families Association
California Healthcare Association
California Medical Association
California Pharmacists Association
California Project LEAN
Center for Civic Partnerships
Community Health Councils Inc.
Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York
Health Research & Educational Trust

National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine
National Association of City and County Health Officials
National Committee on Quality Assurance
National Health Policy Forum
National Partnership for Women & Families
Michigan Prevention Research Center
Pacific Business Group on Health
Partnership for the Public's Health
PolicyLink
PROMETHEUS Payment Inc.
Public Health Institute
RAND Corp.
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

Universities and Educational Institutions

Baruch College, The City University of New York
Brookings Institution
National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine
The Pennsylvania State University
University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health

University of California, Davis
University of California, San Diego
University of Michigan, Health Management Research Center
University of Oregon

Private Companies

GYMR Public Relations
GMMB
Field Research Corp.
Health eTechnologies
Louis Harris Inc.
MS&L Worldwide
Price Waterhouse Coopers
Roche
Social Entrepreneurs Inc.
The Schering-Plough Corp.
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

For a complete list of partners and funders, visit: www.chipolicy.org.



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