

# The ACH Framework

**An Accountable Community for Health (ACH)** is a community-driven collaborative dedicated to making lasting, transformational change. ACHs provide residents and key partners from diverse sectors with an infrastructure for working together to change systems, advance equity, and build stronger, more cohesive communities prepared to address both existing and emerging health challenges. ACHs provide a powerful framework for tackling longstanding inequities by breaking down barriers and promoting a new way of working together.

ACHs rely on **three core principles** to marshal the collective action and transformational systems change that can lead to healthier, stronger, more equitable communities:

## 1 Center Community Voice

Community residents are too often excluded from critical decisions that impact their health. ACHs reengineer this reality by placing residents at the heart of all community health-related discussions. ACHs level the playing field by ensuring that residents have a prominent and active role in their ACH, helping ensure that equity—and the realities that shape their health—is paramount.



### Centering Community Voice



### Multi-Sector Engagement



### Aligning Systems and Priorities

**Transformed Systems**

**Healthier, Stronger,  
More Equitable  
Communities**

Improved health outcomes.  
More resilient systems.  
Greater equity.

## 2 Multi-Sector Engagement

ACHs include not only traditional healthcare and public health systems, but also critical partners that embrace the social drivers of health. Such collaboration and coordination across sectors is necessary to address the diverse contributing factors that influence community health outcomes.

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## 3 Align System and Priorities

ACHs help partners shift from transactional, program-specific approaches to a new norm where participants align local community interests, incubate fresh ideas, and expand collective capacity. Built on a foundation of transparency and data sharing, this alignment results in greater impact than any one entity could achieve alone. By ensuring both transparency and accountability, trust is built among ACH members and the community.