

AROOSTOOK COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (A-CHIP)



A LOCAL APPROACH

The Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, a local social services agency, is the leader and convener of A-CHIP, a local community partnership comprised of representatives from health care, social services, and public health. They are one of three [Rural Community Health Improvement Partnerships \(R-CHIP\)](#) demonstration sites in Maine transforming how local health systems operate to better address health-related social needs and improve health outcomes.

A-CHIP has spent the last 18 months establishing their partnership, creating governance structures, conducting a detailed readiness assessment, identifying priority health-related social needs (HSRNs) of their communities, and developing strategies to address those needs. They have also sought funding opportunities to support implementation of their identified strategies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- High level of engagement among key partner organizations in healthcare, behavioral health, transportation, education, public health, housing and tribal communities.
- Completed extensive lived experience research, reaching 800 residents via survey and conducting 60 key informant interviews, which allowed us to identify transportation, belonging, and access to care as initial priorities.
- Assessed readiness for change and addressed gaps necessary to enable ongoing work.

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

Address Priority Transportation Needs

Initiate an implementation project to improve the acceptability of public transit for non-emergency medical transportation.

Community Voice

Continue to center the lived experience of County residents, ensuring that our work is responsive to the realities of life in our remote rural context.

Strengthen Partnership

Integrate strategic insights from leaders, foster participant relationships, and onboard new organizations to enhance collaborative, systems-level impact.

LEAD ORGANIZATION:
AROOSTOOK AREA AGENCY
ON AGING

LEAD SECTOR:
SOCIAL SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP LOCATION:
AROOSTOOK COUNTY

**YEAR PARTNERSHIP WAS
FOUNDED:**
2023

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
20

WHAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT A-CHIP

“The strategies developed in this process have successfully identified how several sectors can collaborate to provide direct services and access to services. I think once the plan is fully implemented, there is a lot of capacity for more community partners to add utilize the network.”

-A-CHIP Community Partner

“We dedicated our response to a problem and are moving ahead to fix it.”

-A-CHIP Community Partner

DOWNEAST HOUSING COLLABORATIVE (DHC)



A LOCAL APPROACH

Healthy Acadia, a local social services organization, is the leader and convener of DHC, a local community partnership comprised of representatives from health care, social services, and public health. They are one of three [Rural Community Health Improvement Partnerships \(R-CHIP\) demonstration sites](#) in Maine transforming how local health systems operate to better address health-related social needs and improve health outcomes.

DHC has spent the last 18 months establishing their partnership, creating governance structures, conducting a detailed readiness assessment, identifying priority health-related social needs of their communities, and developing strategies to address those needs. They have also sought funding opportunities to support implementation of their identified strategies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Built trust with 19 cross-sector partners that are fully engaged and committed to improving the health and well-being of residents in our local communities.
- Successfully conducted a community readiness assessment to uncover priority health-related social needs in our region. (ex: housing, mental health, workforce development)
- Developed a robust regional implementation plan across the continuum of care, to address housing insecurity and related social needs.

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

Housing Interventions

Utilize the implementation plan to offer solutions and interventions across the continuum of housing – including our focus areas: emergency housing, supportive housing, low-income housing, moderate-income housing.

Deepen Partnerships

Work collaboratively with our partners to continuously identify priority health needs of our communities and develop strategies to address them.

Amplify Community Voice

Ensure that community voice and lived experience shape our interventions and strategies.

LEAD ORGANIZATION:
HEALTHY ACADIA

LEAD SECTOR:
SOCIAL SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP LOCATION:
HANCOCK + WASHINGTON
COUNTIES

**YEAR PARTNERSHIP WAS
FOUNDED:**
2023

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
19

WHAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT DHC

“The collaborative has supported us in building stronger connections between services.”

-DHC Community Partner

“We appreciate the focus on HRSNs and the ability to focus more specifically on housing, as this is a critical issue for our communities. The process of governance, then readiness assessment, then implementation plan development is excellent as well.”

-DHC Community Partner

SOMERSET & KENNEBEC COUNTIES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (SKCCP)

A LOCAL APPROACH

Healthy Living for ME® (HL4ME®), Maine's statewide Community Care Hub, is the leader and convener of SKCCP, a local community partnership comprised of representatives from health care, social services, and public health. They are one of three [Rural Community Health Improvement Partnerships \(R-CHIP\) demonstration sites](#) in Maine transforming how local health systems operate to better address health-related social needs and improve health outcomes.

SKCCP has spent the last 21 months establishing their partnership, creating governance structures, conducting a detailed readiness assessment, identifying priority health-related social needs of their communities, and developing strategies to address those needs. They have also sought funding opportunities to support implementation of their identified strategies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed governance structure comprised of a steering committee of diverse community partners guided by decision-making criteria.
- Identified priority health-related social needs through a local community readiness assessment (financial strain/poverty, mental health, and housing) with the primary underlying barrier to support needs of residents as: *the siloed nature of health and social care services and the difficulties people experience in navigating, understanding, and enrolling in service delivery offerings.*
- Implemented three community-based workgroups to work towards addressing these barriers: community voice, collaborative, and sustainability/infrastructure.

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

Improve Cross-Sector Collaboration

Implement a structured internal and external collaborative framework that leverages SKCCP's SharePoint site and comprehensive asset map of convening groups in Somerset and Kennebec Counties.

Community Engagement

Utilize our Stakeholder Engagement Playbook to engage our community members at key milestones--including residents, external organizations, and influencers.

Systematic-Level Change

Increase the number of connections of residents to resources as well as the connections between resource providers by improving cross-sector collaboration as well as the resource databases/system(s).



LEAD ORGANIZATION:
HEALTHY LIVING FOR ME

LEAD SECTOR:
SOCIAL SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP LOCATION:
KENNEBEC & SOMERSET
COUNTIES

**YEAR PARTNERSHIP WAS
FOUNDED:**
2023

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
16

WHAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT SKCCP

"Members are highly committed to this work within their own organizations."

-SKCCP Community Partner

"I think partners are going about the process in the right way, specifically by not choosing one specific HRSN over another in terms of importance. It's all important and all relative to the clients' perceptions as well."

-SKCCP Community Partner

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HUB (TA HUB)



OUR ROLE

MCD Global Health, a Maine-based public health agency, is the Rural Community Health Improvement Partnership (R-CHIP) Technical Assistance Hub. The Technical Assistance Hub is responsible for assisting R-CHIP demonstration sites with priority needs (establishing governance, completing readiness assessments, etc.) and overseeing the independent evaluation of the demonstration.

Over the last 21 months, the Technical Assistance Hub responded to over 50 requests for assistance. The requests ranged from assisting with data collection and analysis to reviewing readiness assessment reports and drafting proposals for joint presentations. MCD was able to leverage both internal staff and external expertise to address requests in a timely manner.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created the Peer Learning Group, a monthly meeting that encourages collaborative learning and training.
- Provided 30+ potential funding opportunities to demonstration sites.
- Implemented a joint R-CHIP funding strategy to secure implementation funding for R-CHIP Demonstration.

CORE FUNCTIONS

To help ensure the success of the R-CHIP Demonstration, the Technical Assistance Hub will continue to provide the following core functions:

- Building Local Capacity
- Evaluation + Replication
- Communications
- Finance + Administration
- Collaborative Learning

ORGANIZATION PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
MCD GLOBAL HEALTH

ORGANIZATION TYPE:
PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION:
MAINE

YEAR MCD WAS FOUNDED:
1966

PARTNERSHIPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE:
3

WHAT R-CHIP PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

"The vast resources and expertise of the TA Hub have shown their value during our search for sustainable funding opportunities."

-A-CHIP Assistant Project Director

"The Technical Assistance provided by Katherine at MCD has been incredibly helpful. The funding tracker has been a great tool for the entire Downeast Housing Collaborative."

-DHC Project Director