

NORTH COLORADO HEALTH ALLIANCE NAMED A FINALIST IN NATIONAL INITIATIVE AIMED AT ACCELERATING THE JOURNEY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

New Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded program being launched by IHI in partnership with Community Solutions, Communities Joined in Action, and the Collaborative Health Network

Greeley, Colorado – March 18, 2015 – the North Colorado Health Alliance today announced it has been named a finalist in the running to receive funding from the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI) to become a leading community on health improvement, as part of an initiative known as SCALE (Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation). With two years of grant support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, SCALE aims to work with communities to develop capability to improve health and to spread effective community-driven approaches across the US.

In cooperation with the IHI SCALE team, the North Colorado Health Alliance, through its partners, proposes to broaden cross-sector and community-wide adoption and use of our Thriving Weld County Community Health Data Dashboard from 60 agencies to at least 130, and to accelerate the pace of improvement through aligned collective impact in each of our areas of focus: Access to Care, Healthy Eating, Active Living, Education, Livelihood, and Healthy Mind & Spirit.

Today's 57 grant finalists, selected from close to 200 applicants across the country, will be narrowed to approximately 30 communities by mid-April. SCALE aims to match up to 10 "mentor communities" – those with a recent track record of achieving better health – with 20 "pacesetter communities" that are seeking to accelerate their pace of change. "This has been an incredibly competitive selection process that began with hundreds of outstanding communities," said Soma Stout, MD MS Principal Innovator in SCALE and Executive External Lead, Health Improvement, IHI. "All of the finalists should be incredibly proud of the accomplishment of getting to the finalist stage."

SCALE communities will seek to obtain improved health outcomes, spread effective best practices as quickly as possible in order to realize improvements in health, and become beacons and resources for any community, anywhere, striving to obtain the best health possible – especially those most vulnerable to poor health due to poverty, violence, or lack of social supports. The initiative will tap into the expertise of Abraham H. Wandersman, PhD, from the University of South Carolina, who will lead a team of experts in formative evaluation across institutions.

Northern Colorado agencies and corporations, especially in Weld County, have invested wisely and strategically over the last two decades in making this part of Colorado the healthiest region in the healthiest state in the nation. The collaborating partners and businesses understand the sustaining economic success that comes from healthy individuals, families, students and employees. Schools thrive. Businesses thrive. Communities thrive. The shared community health dashboard is a tool to align resources, share progress, and achieve greater collective impact.

SCALE marks the first community-based program of the recently announced global initiative, [100 Million Healthier Lives](#), led by IHI and 115 founding project partners. Through unprecedented collaboration, this initiative aims to achieve an audacious goal: 100 million people living healthier lives by 2020. To date, more than 400 patients, community members, leaders, organizations, and implementers across the domains of public health, community health, health care, policy, academia, business, and financing have joined the 100 Million Healthier Lives initiative, with additional members welcome to join [here](#).

The North Colorado Health Alliance is an enduring formal community collaborative convening partners across the fastest growing region in Colorado. The partners and collaborating agencies are jointly committed to generating health as the foundation for thriving communities and sustainable economic vitality in northern Colorado. Alliance partners serve as incubators of innovation and implementers of best practices to achieve a shared vision of being the healthiest region in the healthiest state in the nation.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

About The Institute for Healthcare Improvement

IHI is a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide. For more than 25 years, we have partnered with visionaries, leaders, and front-line practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. Recognized as an innovator, convener, trustworthy partner, and driver of results, we are the first place to turn for expertise, help, and encouragement for anyone, anywhere who wants to change health and health care profoundly for the better. To advance our mission, IHI's work is focused in five key areas: Improvement Capability; Person- and Family-Centered Care; Patient Safety; Quality, Cost, and Value; and Triple Aim for Populations. Learn more at ihi.org.

About Community Solutions

Community Solutions is a registered 501(c)(3) organization that helps communities solve the complex problems facing their most vulnerable, hard hit members. We work from eight locations to assist communities throughout the United States and internationally. <http://cmtysolutions.org/>

About Communities Joined in Action

Communities Joined in Action (CJA) is a private, non-profit membership organization of nearly 200 community health collaboratives – each of our members being committed to improving health, improving access, and eliminating disparities in their communities. Our mission is to mobilize and assist these community health collaboratives to assure better health for all people at less cost. <http://cjaonline.net>

About Collaborative Health Network

Collaborative Health Network is a vibrant network that connects diverse stakeholders and trusted groups who are working to improve community health and healthcare, especially those taking a multi-sector, collaborative approach. Supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and led by the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI), the Collaborative Health Network is designed to accelerate the adoption of what is working locally, and to identify the next generation of challenges.

<http://www.nrhi.org/collaborative-health-network>

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