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**NORTH COLORADO HEALTH ALLIANCE NAMED A SCALE AWARDEE BY INSTITUTE FOR  
HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT**

*Selected as a pacesetter community to join national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation aimed at accelerating the improvement of health and well-being*

**EVANS, CO – April 17, 2015** –The North Colorado Health Alliance today announced it has been named a final awardee and will receive funding from the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI) to support promising community-based work on health improvement, as part of the SCALE (Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation) initiative. Made possible by a \$4.8 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and led by IHI, Community Solutions, Communities Joined in Action, and the Collaborative Health Network, SCALE will help communities further their capability to improve the health of targeted populations and develop ways to share and spread community-driven approaches across the country.

SCALE is designed to jumpstart an unprecedented community-to-community learning system right out of the gate in that the initiative matches four “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. The North Colorado Health Alliance has been named a pacesetter community and will use the grant funding to broaden cross-sector and community-wide adoption and use a Community Health Data Dashboard, and to accelerate the pace of the northern Colorado’s progress toward health equity and improvements in population health and access to quality, integrated, and sustainably affordable care.

“After reviewing hundreds of impressive applications, we are pleased to welcome these 24 communities to the SCALE initiative and to bring them together to deepen their ability to create effective improvement and to generously share what’s currently working in various locales,” stated Soma Stout, MD, MS, Principal Innovator in SCALE, and Executive External Lead, Health Improvement, IHI.

“Our enduring organizational partnerships, a strong shared vision of healthy communities across northern Colorado, clearly defined strategies to achieve health, the collective wisdom and commitment of countless agencies and individuals, and an array of tools to support our work, give us great confidence that we’ll achieve our goal of being the healthiest region in the healthiest state in the nation,” said Mark Wallace, MD, MPH, a local health officer and co-founder of the North Colorado Health Alliance.

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 communities 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.

SCALE marks the first community-based program of the recently announced global initiative, [100 Million Healthier Lives](#), led by IHI and 140 founding partners. Through unprecedented collaboration, this initiative aims to achieve an audacious goal: 100 million people living healthier lives by 2020. To date, nearly 500 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](#).

#### **About the North Colorado Health Alliance**

The North Colorado Health Alliance (NCHA) was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2002. Based in the town of Evans, NCHA is a collaboration of partner organizations dedicated to cultivating the health of the communities they serve. NCHA aims to improve patient experience, while insisting on quality care at a reduced and sustainable cost. Many of our community partners are direct providers of high-quality and cost-effective access to integrated safety net services in Weld and Larimer counties. Our goal is a healthy population with 100% access to quality care at a sustainable cost. At NCHA, we recognize that health does not begin or end with medical, dental, and behavioral health services. Health also depends on features of the built environment and on a variety of social determinants that make it harder for many to resist the chronic illnesses of our times. For more information, visit [www.northcoloradohealthalliance.org](http://www.northcoloradohealthalliance.org) or [www.facebook.com/nocolohealthalliance](https://www.facebook.com/nocolohealthalliance)

#### **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](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](https://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or on Facebook at [www.rwjf.org/facebook](https://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](http://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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