



A Shared Vision.
A Culture of Health.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
COMMUNITY
HEALTH
INNOVATION
REGION



About the NMCHIR

WHAT IS A CHIR?

A Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR) is a unique model for improving the wellbeing of a region and reducing unnecessary medical costs through collaboration and systems change. CHIRs engage a broad group of stakeholders to identify and address factors that affect residents' health, such as housing, transportation, and food insecurity, as well as access to high-quality medical care. The CHIR model creates a neutral space for partners to unite around a common vision, aligning their objectives and services to meet the needs of the community. The result is a community that is purposeful in its response to residents' needs, creating conditions that meaningfully support an individual's ability to have a higher, more productive quality of life.



HOW DOES A CHIR WORK?

CHIR partners are organized by a neutral backbone organization that facilitates the development and implementation of key strategies, creating the necessary capacity to sustain progress on stated objectives. CHIR steering committees provide a clear leadership structure and promote shared accountability among partners for aligning their resources to address priority community health needs. It takes a comprehensive group of committed organizations to meet the needs of a community.

No one entity can do this alone.

Who We Are

Community Health Innovation Regions (CHIRs) are one of four foundational components to the State Innovation Model, a four-year, \$70M federal grant awarded to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. There are five Community Health Innovations Regions in the State, including the 10-county **Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region (NMCHIR)**.



The Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region serves 10 counties: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford (Prosperity Region 2).

The backbone organization for the Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region is the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance, a partnership of seven local public health departments that together cover 31 counties. The Northern Health Plan serves as fiduciary.

A Steering Committee, composed of leaders from accountable systems of care, community mental health agencies, local public health departments, Medicaid Health Plans, Area Agency on Aging, community action agency, council of governments, federally-qualified health center, prepaid inpatient hospital

plan, and others, are guided by a charter and memorandum of understanding.

The Steering Committee organized two work groups to facilitate the work required of the Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region: a Clinical Community Linkages Work Group and Community Health Assessment and Improvement Work Group.



Our Community Partners



The NMCHIR Steering Committee is a vibrant, structured, cross-sector partnership designed to oversee the development and implementation of all activities within the NMCHIR, including funding, services, governance, and collective action. Its members have focused their divergent interests to the unique capabilities and resources in Northwest Michigan, knowing that together we can achieve outcomes that far surpass any one sector working in isolation.

In addition, the NMCHIR Steering Committee is responsible to:

- Approve regional operational plans, budgets, contracts, and staffing of backbone organization
- Document group proceedings to ensure decision-making protocols are followed and transparency is maintained
- Participate in cross-regional and statewide leadership meetings and conferences
- Establish subcommittees, work groups, and/or action teams
- Continually pursue additional stakeholders in CHIR work, actively and inclusively engaging underserved or at-risk populations in the decision-making process

- Alcona Health Center
- Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan
- Bay Area Transportation Authority
- District Health Department #10
- Grand Traverse County Health Department
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- McLaren Health Plan
- McLaren Northern Michigan
- Meridian Health Plan
- Munson Healthcare
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - Antrim/Charlevoix/Emmet Office
 - Grand Traverse/Kalkaska/Leelanau Office
- Networks Northwest
- North Country Community Mental Health
- Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority
- Northern Physicians Organization
- Northern Michigan Regional Entity
- Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency
- Wexford Physician Hospital Organization

What We Do

The NMCHIR has engaged over 100 diverse organizations, including health care providers, insurers, community organizations, and local government agencies, to come together to identify and implement strategies that address community health priorities.

Many communities across the country have clinical community linkages models and others have robust community health assessment and community health improvement planning. What makes Michigan's State Innovation Model unique is that it is testing the effectiveness of combining these activities.



NMCHIR is triggering transformative change within the health and service delivery sectors by:



LAUNCHING A PARADIGM SHIFT

Promoting a new and more complex understanding of health and the importance of social determinants of health

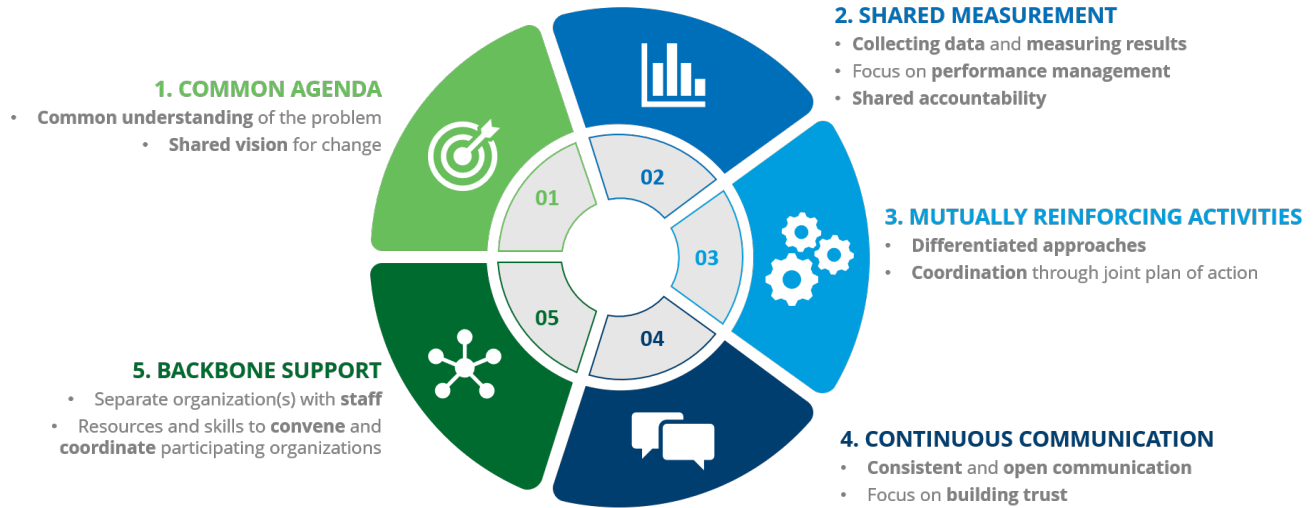


CREATING A COLLECTIVE INNOVATION SPACE

Providing opportunities for health and social services to depart from "business as usual" and experiment with new and different ways of working together

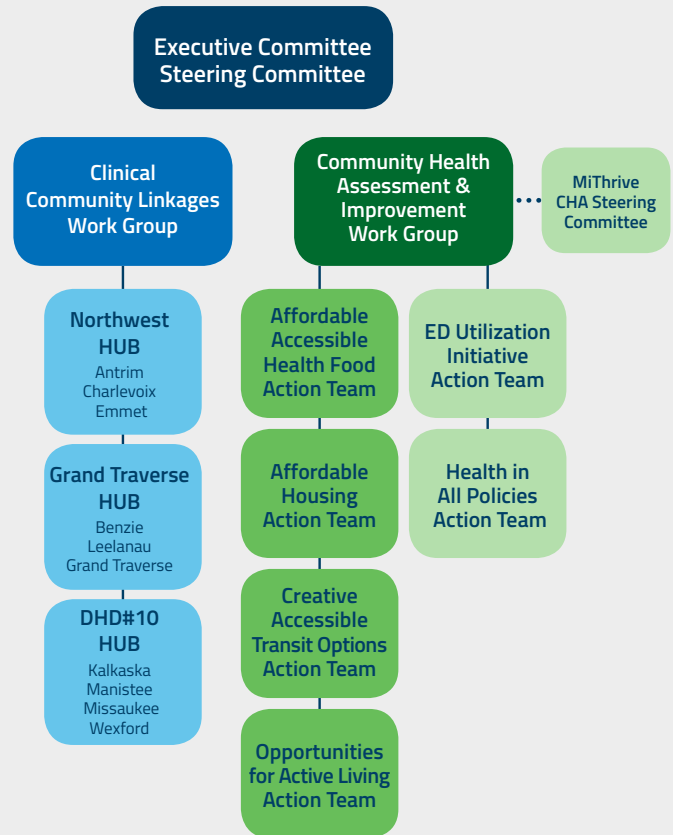
How We Do It

The NMCHIR is grounded in the **Collective Impact Model**, a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It is an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across sectors to achieve lasting social change. It consists of the following:



The NMCHIR utilizes two primary work groups in order to carry out its work. The Clinical Community Linkages Work Group oversees a screening tool administered at patient centered medical homes and community services across the region. It identifies individuals' needs for accessing medical care, housing, transportation, healthy food, and other social determinants of health and generates a referral to one of three Community Connections HUBs.

While the HUBs are assisting clients on a one-on-one basis, members of the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Work Group oversee several specialized Action Teams. Four of them focus on the top-ranked barriers to health and quality of life. Additional Action Teams are planning and implementing initiatives to reduce preventable/avoidable Emergency Department visits and to launch Health in All Policies regionally. In addition, the NMCHIR is a member, and funding partner, of the MiThrive community health assessment.



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