



Why should a Turning Point Partnership (TTP) become a Certified County Health Improvement Organization (CHIO)?

The CHIO certification process was established by the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma (PHIO) as a way to help TPPs and other community-based partnerships become even more effective in their efforts to improve health and health care within their counties and across the state. CHIO certification also enhances sustainability of TPPs and community-based partnerships. These goals are accomplished in the following ways:

1. The 501c3 (non-profit) organizational status makes it possible for partnerships to receive, hold, and manage funds, and it makes it easier to apply for grants from foundations and federal funding agencies. PHIO has allowed CHIOs to use our non-profit status through affiliation agreements while they are applying to become their own non-profit. Workshops and low-cost assistance is also available to help with 501c3 applications through Integrated Concepts Inc. Grant writing assistance is provided by the Community Services Council (CSC) and Integrated Concepts.

Examples

- Two CHIOs applied to the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and received \$80,000 planning grants, one of which received CSC assistance. One CHIO subsequently received an implementation grant to improve diabetes care within its three counties.
- Three TPP's have used the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma (PHIO) as their 501c3 fiduciary agent and received funds from the IMPaCT grant to apply to become a 501c3 organization. Thirteen of the twenty-one certified CHIOs are either their own non-profit entity or partner with a non-profit organization in their community for their non-profit status. Two are in the process of applying.

2. Requiring the inclusion of clinicians and hospital representatives on the Board of Directors allows for integration of health delivery perspectives with the public and population health knowledge and experience already present in most community coalitions. The resulting public-private partnership can open up new funding sources available only to organizations that include health care professionals and can leverage both public and private funds to accomplish shared goals. In addition, emerging health care financing models, nationally and in Oklahoma, are likely to include new opportunities for involvement of community-based organizations (CBOs).

Examples

- Ten CHIOs each received \$10,000 competitive IMPaCT grants to engage in quality improvement projects involving primary care practices and community-based partners working together. Projects were directed at addressing such issues as: management of controlled substances, suicide reduction, and diabetes care.
- Three CHIO counties are participating in a study to determine whether preventive services can be better delivered at a county level using a unified registry populated through a health information exchange.
- Under the guidelines of a new quality improvement project aimed at improving cardiovascular health through clinical and community strategies, CHIOs are eligible to receive \$1,000 incentive for each primary care practice in their county(ies) that enroll to participate. This funding is targeted for community-based cardiovascular health strategies and can be used to supplement funds a CHIO may be receiving from the

- Oklahoma State Department of Health or the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust to address the same risk factors.
 - A recent initiative by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations (CMS) solicited applications from CBOs to work on ways to reduce early hospital readmissions. Applicants had to have 501c3 status and include primary care clinicians and hospital representatives on their Boards. This is a good example of how future funding opportunities are requiring a CHIO-type of structure and membership.
3. Joining the statewide system of CHIOs increases visibility and credibility, which can result in receipt of a greater number and variety of resources. That, in turn should result in a greater collective impact of CHIO strategies on the overall health of the state. The PHIO website (www.publichealthok.org) provides links to a wide variety of resources, and PHIO keeps CHIOs informed of new opportunities.

Examples

- University researchers interested in conducting community-based participatory research are increasingly attracted to work with CHIOs as partners in research and quality improvement initiatives because CHIOs are known entities with a record of engagement with diverse constituencies in their community.
 - One CHIO is a funded partner in a national study aimed at exploring how to effectively engage the voices, and elevate the priorities, of patients and community members in primary and preventive care research. The results of this study will help spread an understanding of community-based networks, including CHIOs, as levers of change for improved population health and, it is hoped, will influence policy-making and grant-making for patient-centered research on the national stage.
 - Three CHIOs are involved in a study to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of a county-based preventive services reminder system.
4. Along with PHIO's certification and communications on resource opportunities, the Community Services Council of Tulsa and Integrated Concepts Inc. can provide support by preparing for and obtaining your 501c3 status, grant writing, board development, project management and marketing. There is an Annual CHIO meeting slated for September 1, at the NCED Conference Center in Norman, OK and a CHIO learning session will be held in each quadrant of the state. For more information, check PHIO's website www.publihealthok.org.

For more information on becoming a Certified County Health Improvement Organization, contact PHIO at info@publichealthok.org or call (405) 259-6851.



Public Health
Institute of
Oklahoma