Founded with a generous grant from the RCHN Community Health Foundation in 2021, the Center helps prepare Community Health Centers, state and regional Primary Care Associations and Health Center Controlled Networks for future clinical and operational success. Our focus is on the workforce of the future, practice innovation models and collaborative arrangements. This work builds on the Movement’s unique 50-plus year history and commitment to equity and access and is aligned with NACHC’s six pillars. To learn more about the pillars, visit https://www.nachc.org/about/about-nachc/

THE CENTER’S MISSION: To serve as a catalyst for innovation at America’s Community Health Centers and to help advance future-focused approaches that increase access to affordable, equitable, quality health care for all.

INNOVATION AT NACHC

Transforming ideas into reality to foster greater Community Health Center impact – on the health and health equity, of the people and communities they serve.

Interested in Innovation?
Join our list.

OUR INNOVATION VALUES

LEARN from history and from others
BE CREATIVE to foster intentional, inclusive innovation
COLLABORATE widely and build relationships
ENGAGE those who are most impacted
CONVENE to inspire – and be inspired by others
ADAPT as there is often no “one size fits all’ solution
MEASURE progress by evaluating data, insights, stories
EDUCATE and disseminate for broad impact
SNAPSHOT OF OUR WORK

Innovictionary
The Center has built an innovation dictionary – the Innovictionary, to define innovation tools and concepts with a health center lens and provide curated resources. The health center ecosystem will be invited to submit examples of the terms from their own work. Coming soon.

Workforce of the Future Challenge
The Center launched the "Workforce of the Future" challenge as a call for best and promising practices focused on engaging youth in future careers as community health center professionals. Finalists were awarded scholarships to an IDEO-U innovation course and the winner won $10,000. The Center will produce case studies to disseminate to all who wish to build their own youth engagement programs.

New Solar Power/Resiliency Partnership
NACHC’s Development and Innovation and the Public Health Priorities divisions have partnered with Direct Relief on the Power for Health Initiative to help health centers in disaster-prone areas become more resilient and secure energy solutions such as solar power and backup batteries.

Workforce Innovations
DEI and anti-racism programming, a health equity data tracker, a microsite of new recruitment resources, and a higher-education coalition of minority-serving institutions focused on pathways to health center careers are all in development as part of a grant from the Johnson & Johnson Foundation.

Session at CHI

Innovations with Mobile Health Units
Six health centers were awarded $10,000 each for care delivery innovations with mobile units. Innovations included substance use and harm reduction services, home visit pilots, new community pediatric partnerships, and a coalition to care for people experiencing homelessness. Funding was awarded from the Leon Lowenstein Family Foundation.
Developing NACHC’s Innovation: Workforce, Value-Based Care, Internal Innovation
The Center collaborates with NACHC’s internal experts to further develop our focus on workforce, and on value-based care. We host a new internal group to foster and lead innovation, open to all staff, “Innovation@NACHC.”

Collaboration with Our Government Partners
NACHC’s long-standing partnership with our federal partners extends to our work at the Center. We regularly engage with HRSA’s Innovation office, the Bureau of Primary Care’s Center for Health Center Innovation and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

Have an innovative idea or experience you want to share? Let us know.

SNAPSHOT OF OUR WORK

Chair: Kim Schwartz, Roanoke Chowan Health Center (NC)
Co-Chair: Julia Liou, Asian Health Services (CA)
Rich Bettini, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (HI)
Sonya Bruton, CCI Health Services (MD)
Yvonne Davis, Health Care Partners of South Carolina (SC)
Robert Gomez, AltaMed (CA)
Andrew Hamilton, Alliance Chicago (IL)
Paloma Hernandez, Urban Health (NY)
Mike Holmes, Scenic Rivers Health Services (MN)
Feygele Jacobs, RCHN Community Health Foundation
Annette Kowal, Colorado Community Health Network (CO)
Faith Polkey, M.D., Beaufort Jasper CHC (SC)
Wilma Schmitz, Family Care Health Centers (MO)
Jason Shaplen, CHC, Inc. (CT)
Aaron Todd, Iowa Primary Care Association (IA)
Gary Wiltz, M.D., Teche Action Clinics (LA)