



# Taking Community Health Needs Assessments to the Next Level

**CASE STUDY** | JUNE 2019

## COMMUNITY POWERED CHANGE: MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Community Powered Change is a campaign for health equity in Multnomah County, Oregon that amplifies community voices to build the future residents want to see. The initiative provides a platform for communities to (1) define health equity for themselves and (2) transform how communities engage with the local institutions that create policies affecting residents’ everyday lives.



Community Powered Change is a partnership between the Oregon Health Equity Alliance and the Multnomah County Health Department. The Health Department, which must conduct regular community needs assessments for accreditation, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a community group to lead the process. Ultimately, Oregon Health Equity Alliance won the RFP. This unique partnership between community and government shifts how the county engages with the community and reflects increased support of community-driven equity work.

An extensive assortment of community partners play a role in the needs assessment process, which informs a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) describing the community’s priorities, goals, solutions and resources. The CHIP then guides the Community Powered Change’s activities to address community members’ goals and needs.

### MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY POWERED CHANGE

<b>ENTITY WITH CHNA OBLIGATION</b>	Public Health Department
<b>PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS</b>	Oregon Health Equity Alliance and Multnomah County Health Department
<b>PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS</b>	30 organizations participate in Community Powered Change, including government, community-based organizations, educators, researchers, advocates, organizers and providers.

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## MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY POWERED CHANGE

<p><b>BEST PRACTICES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Community goals, needs and solutions are identified through a community-driven process.</li> <li>» The process is inclusive, including efforts to engage individuals experiencing the greatest inequalities, such as communities of color.</li> <li>» Cross-sector partnerships include organizations focused on health, housing, education, jobs, transportation, food systems and neighborhood development, in addition to local government.</li> <li>» Community members participate in all phases, including designing and implementing the assessment process, prioritizing needs and establishing and implementing improvement plans. They are represented on leadership boards/advisory committees and receive stipends for their participation.</li> <li>» Participating organizations collaborate to systematically address community needs, when appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>2018 List of Community Powered Change Strategies by Priority <a href="#">[link]</a></p> <p>2018 Implementation Summary <a href="#">[link]</a></p> <p>2015 Multnomah County Public Health Division Community Health Assessment <a href="#">[link]</a></p> <p>Program Website: <b><a href="https://www.communitypoweredchange.com/">https://www.communitypoweredchange.com/</a></b></p>

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### About This Series

The Healthcare Value Hub takes a careful look at the evidence and consults with experts in order to clarify for advocates, media and policymakers the important healthcare cost drivers, drivers of health inequities and the promising policy solutions. More information on community health needs assessments is available at [www.HealthcareValueHub.org/Community-Health-Needs-Assessments](http://www.HealthcareValueHub.org/Community-Health-Needs-Assessments).

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