

Community Resources: Key Points



In NICHQ's Care Model for Child Health (based on the Chronic Illness Care Model developed by Ed Wagner), the health care system can optimize self-management support by informed, activated patients through collaboration with community resources.

Utilizing community partnerships, health care providers can identify effective programs, encourage appropriate patient participation, develop evidence-based programs and policies supportive of chronic care, and encourage coordination among health plans of chronic illness guidelines, measures, and care resources.

The following key points identify: community partners, activities benefiting primary care providers and community partners, and strategies for prioritizing potential partnerships.

Identify Potential Community Partners

- Other clinical providers of care
- Health care delivery systems
- Payers, insurers, and managed care organizations
- Public health and environmental agencies, schools, and childcare providers
- Community-based organizations both public and private, voluntary health agencies, and local coalitions
- State and local government, academic institutions, and the local media
- Parents/caretakers of children with overweight

An Effective Community Partnership includes:

- A clear vision and shared objectives
- Decisive and flexible leadership
- Inclusive participation of key representatives
- Trusting relationships
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Time commitment of partners
- Funds for capacity building
- Shared benefits

Strategies for prioritizing potential Partnerships:

- Prioritize internal needs
- Analyze relative strengths and limitations of potential partners
- Identify shared opportunities for improvement
- Overcome political barriers
- Secure cash and in-kind support

Key Activities

- Clinical provider training
- Patient, peer, and family education
- Information and referral networks to needed resources
- Resources for nutrition support and education, exercise and healthy habits
- Public and community education
- Community health planning
- Coalition development
- Program evaluation



Strategies to help PCPs identify and meet the needs of Partners:

- Evaluate your needs
- Understand your partner's needs
- Establish shared goals
- Clarify roles
- Celebrate successes