

Healthcare Anchor Network

Health Systems Collaborating to Build Inclusive, Local Economies

Overview and History

The Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN) is a national collaboration of U.S. health systems that are committed to leveraging their institutional resources—like hiring, purchasing, and investing—to improve the economic and social conditions in the communities they serve. Through collaborative action, we are maximizing the positive impact healthcare institutions can have as economic anchors in their communities.

HAN supports and empowers health systems to deploy their substantial resources—hiring practices, purchasing power, investment portfolios, and more—to address the fundamental causes of health disparities and create economically stable communities.

By harnessing the collective strength of the healthcare sector, we can substantially impact the drivers of health while building stronger and more sustainable local economies. HAN's 75+ health systems represent more than 1,000 hospitals, \$100 billion of purchasing power, \$250 billion of invested assets, and almost 2 million of staff resources.

Founding members and seed funders of the Healthcare Anchor Network include Advocate Aurora Health, CommonSpirit Health, Henry Ford Health System, Intermountain Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, ProMedica, Providence, Rush University System for Health, RWJBarnabas Health, SSM Health, Trinity Health, and UMass Memorial Health.

Activities of the Network

HAN provides strategic support, curates deep dive peer conversations and facilitates initiative workgroups for members as they develop, launch, grow, and institutionalize anchor mission strategies at their institutions. These structured learning opportunities help members develop the necessary tools, frameworks, and relationships, and to address common challenges needed to accelerate anchor strategies. HAN convenes health systems twice annually. HAN also administers an annual data collection process around core anchor strategies and supports a member-only online community platform that provides tools and resources to help meet specific needs.

“As Henry Ford Health System continues to focus on uplifting healthy communities in the regions we serve, we lean on our relationship with the Healthcare Anchor Network for guidance, support, and sharing of critical information. It is vital that the entire healthcare sector explore and commit to investments in the social needs and determinants of health, and the HAN is leading the way to promote this activity and collaboration among its members.”

Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, senior vice president of community health & equity, Henry Ford Health System

CATALYST



For information on joining the
Healthcare Anchor Network, email:
membership@anchornetwork.org



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Activities of the Network

Initiative groups

- Place-based Investing
- Impact Purchasing
- Inclusive, Local Hiring
- Advancing the Organizational Imperative
- Aligning to Advance Policy
- Building the Evidence Base
- Collaborating with Community Stakeholders
- Leveraging Anchor Philanthropy

Racial and Economic Equity Awareness and Leadership (REAL) Series

- Individual cohorts
- Team-based cohorts

Peer affinity list

- Academic Medical Centers
- Multi-State Systems
- Rural Areas
- Safety Net

Leadership commitments & statements

- Impact Purchasing Commitment
- Place-based Investment Commitment
- Impact Workforce Commitment
- Principles for Workforce Development & Inclusive Local Hiring
- Principles for Healthy and Affordable Housing

Membership

Healthcare leaders are uniquely positioned and incentivized to play a more active role in supporting local economies. The time is now for an expansion and deepening of this work in our communities, and leaders in the field are rising to the occasion. Membership in the Healthcare Anchor Network is open to representatives of all health systems that can bring their energy, insight, and innovation to the collective work. Join us in advancing the anchor mission of healthcare.

“UMass Memorial Health was ready to commit to anchor strategies that could leverage our resources to benefit our local community, but we didn’t really know where or how to start. After The Healthcare Anchor Network’s catalytic and inspiring workshop, we had a new sense of alignment and engagement on our team, and a clear shared vision of the path forward.”

Douglas Brown, Former President, UMM Community Hospitals, CAO, UMass Memorial Health, Inc.

LEADERSHIP



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The Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN) provides the knowledge and the resources to incubate and scale strategies to improve community health and well-being by building inclusive, local economies.



IMPACT



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