Myriad factors affect the health of a community. Access to care, while essential, is only one component. Our challenge as community health stakeholders is to go beyond providing care to also addressing the social, economic, environmental and behavioral factors that affect health. This task cannot be done with a prescription nor achieved alone. The journey from health care to healthy communities requires collaboration among health care systems, public health and community development organizations, and businesses, and must be supported by policies that enable all individuals to reach their highest potential for health.

The 2016 Association for Community Health Improvement National Conference aims to catalyze this shift From Health Care to Healthy Communities by disseminating innovative approaches to improve community health and providing opportunities for diverse community health stakeholders to network and share ideas.

ACHI is the premier national association for community benefit and community health professionals. Its mission is to advance healthy communities by providing educational resources, professional development and networking opportunities in order to cultivate a society of professionals who can apply their specialized knowledge and expertise to help communities achieve their highest potential for health.

The ACHI National Conference brings together more than 500 participants from across the U.S. to discuss strategies and approaches to improve the health of their respective communities. In its 13th year, the ACHI conference has become a gathering point for community benefit, population health, public health and community development professionals to network and share promising practices in community health improvement. The two-and-a-half day conference includes preconference workshops, plenary sessions, concurrent breakout sessions, a poster reception and site visits.

**Topic Tracks**

ACHI is seeking proposals for concurrent breakout sessions and posters. All proposals must be submitted by Friday, September 25, 2015 via the [online form](#). The 2016 conference will feature six topic tracks:

**From Clinical to Community: Addressing Social Determinants and Equity**

Hospitals and health care systems are increasingly recognizing that they must go beyond hospital walls to successfully manage the health of their population. Clinical approaches need to be aligned with people’s daily lives and work within a culture of innovation, community collaboration and shared ownership to address social determinants of health like socioeconomic status, race, gender, food access and education. This track will focus on the journey from clinical-centric programs to collaborative, evidence-based strategies and explore how a focus on the social determinants of health can successfully address health equity, cultural competency, health literacy and unconscious bias.
Evidence to Action to Results: Using Data to Improve Health
Hospitals and public health departments are striving to make their community health needs assessments and implementation plans more meaningful, actionable and effective by developing robust partnerships and engaging individuals in their communities. This track will focus on best practices in CHNAs, implementation strategies and evaluation including: coalition and partnership building; community health improvement planning driven by assessment findings, community research data and use of evidence-based interventions; incorporating CHNA findings into hospital strategy; and the intersection of community research scientists, epidemiologists and public health departments working with hospitals and health care systems throughout the CHNA process.

Communities in Crisis: Partnerships for Stronger Community Resilience
A community’s ability to prepare for, respond to and bounce back from crises, both natural and man-made, is strengthened by the coordinated efforts of local health care systems, hospitals, public health organizations, and physical and behavioral health providers. “Man-made” events such as hate crimes, school and faith community shootings, community violence, terrorist attacks, and natural events such as hurricanes, droughts, blizzards, climate change, flu pandemics and Ebola pose unique challenges to communities and expose different areas of local vulnerability. This track will feature efforts to collaboratively prepare for local crises and disasters as well as the response of local systems of care in handling specific community disasters.

Place Matters: The Role of Community Development
Health status is profoundly influenced by the places where people live, work and play. Accordingly, to improve the health of a community, resources must be devoted to promoting safer neighborhoods, stable and affordable housing, environmentally sound communities and economic self-sufficiency. This track will feature innovative examples of how community development, including investments in the built environment, public safety and transportation initiatives, economic opportunity and educational outcomes, contributes to improving population health.

Workforce of the Future: Models for New Roles
As the population health paradigm takes root, health care workers are taking on new roles to promote health outside clinic walls. Training and education specific to community and population health are evolving to enhance the capabilities of individuals in the health care system and community. This track will showcase innovations to develop competent and caring experts in community and population health including: workforce models for training and engaging new and experienced workers; and initiatives through colleges and universities, hospitals and health care systems, and community organizations to develop competencies in community and population health among their students and employees.

Collaboration: Models for Success and Sustainability
Collaborations among diverse stakeholders are necessary to develop healthy communities but often difficult to assemble and execute. Presentations in this track will share stories of exemplary partnerships that highlight the characteristics of robust collaborations; how disparate organizations come together around a shared goal; the role of hospitals in community health collaborations; and how collaborative efforts can be sustainably funded.
**Breakout Session and Poster Proposals**

ACHI is offering two options for presentation proposals for the 2016 National Conference: concurrent breakout session or poster. Descriptions of both options are provided below.

**Breakout Sessions**

Concurrent breakout sessions are the primary educational component of ACHI conferences. These sessions are your opportunity to share your story and teach your peers. Each session will be 75 minutes and should include a presentation with Q&A. Session formats may include individual presentations, panel discussions, skill-building activities, demonstrations or whatever approach you think will best engage conference attendees. Be creative!

ACHI is committed to producing professional education of the highest caliber. We are seeking experienced presenters who can convey knowledge, demonstrate actionable tools for community health improvement and engage conference participants in discussion.

**Posters**

ACHI is seeking original content about your organization’s community health improvement initiatives. Posters may present cases studies unique to the community or novel tools for community health improvement. The networking poster session will take place during the welcome reception on Tuesday, March 1. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to view and discuss posters with presenters. The lead presenter is expected to attend the conference and stand by his/her poster during the reception.

**Submission Instructions**

Proposals must be submitted electronically by **Friday, September 25**. You can access the form at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016achi](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016achi) or by clicking [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016achi). You are encouraged to draft your proposal in a word processing document and copy it into the online form. Proposals that are incomplete or do not follow the submission guidelines will not be considered for selection.

All proposals should include:

- Preferred **presentation type**: breakout session only, breakout session preferred, poster only, or no preference
- **Full contact information** for each presenter (name, title, organization, city, state, phone, email). You may have up to three presenters per session.
- **Brief biography** (up to 250 words) for each presenter. Please do not submit resumes or CVs.
- **Topic track** (listed above) to which the presentation best relates
- Descriptive **presentation title** (10 words or fewer)
- Three specific **learning objectives** for the presentation
- **Short description** (up to 300 words) of the proposed presentation including the take-home value and impact of the presentation. Why is the session particularly relevant or valuable to conference attendees? You are encouraged to relate your proposal to the conference theme, *From Health Care to Healthy Communities*, and the topic track selected.

If selected, your name, biography, presentation title, session description and learning objectives will be made available on the ACHI website and conference mobile application. Conference attendees will receive your presentation via the mobile application. Membership in the Association for Community Health Improvement is **not** required in order to be a presenter.

We anticipate receiving more high quality proposals than we can include in the conference agenda. If you are interested in presenting an ACHI webinar or being featured as a case study on HPOE.org or in the ACHI newsletter, please indicate your preference on the submission form.
Selection Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated by the ACHI conference planning committee according to criteria that include:

- Relevance to conference theme and topic track
- Clarity of session description and learning objectives
- Originality and/or timeliness of topic
- Practical application of tools or lessons learned
- Speaker qualifications and experience
- Engaging, dynamic or interactive format
- Program balance – the conference planning committee strives to create a conference program that covers a wide range of topics

Note: To preserve the integrity of the educational experience, ACHI has a policy of not selling services, products or future consulting assignments during presentations. All accepted breakout session presenters will be asked to sign a faculty agreement that includes this policy.

Conference Fees

Presenters are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses, but are invited to register for the conference at the special reduced rate: $310 for breakout session presenters and $420 for poster presenters. Confirmed presenters will receive a discount code at the time of registration.

Timeline

1. Presentation proposals are due Friday, September 25 at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016achi.
2. ACHI will notify all applicants of their application status by October 26, 2015, via email.
3. All presenters of accepted sessions will be required to return a signed faculty agreement by November 20, 2015, to confirm participation in the conference.
4. Breakout session and poster presenters must submit final slides and other materials by Friday, February 12, 2016. Presentations will be available to conference attendees via the conference mobile application as well as a cloud storage site.

PRESENTER TIMELINE

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<td>ACHI CONFERENCE</td>
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Questions

Please contact jresnick@aha.org with any questions about the application process, your proposal or the ACHI National Conference.