

## What is the Collaborative Action Network?

The Collaborative Action Network was launched by North Sound ACH in 2022 as an collective space where individuals and organizations can come together to learn, and strategize ways to take action so that all community members can thrive. Members of the Network explicitly agree to a set of common beliefs, objectives, and agreements, and to work together to create change that advances equitable well-being, leaving no one behind. (See the [Commitments](#)). The frameworks of [Vital Conditions for Well-being](#) and [Targeted Universalism](#) influence our goals and practices.

What are some common themes of the network? Learning, collaboration, brave spaces, deep dialogue, and respect for our different journeys to this common space.



## North Sound ACH

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### Collaborative Action Network





## About collaboration

Network partners engage in learning and action focused on bridging activities that generate belonging, inclusion, and connection. Partners will participate in the Network in different ways, reflective of the unique journeys we are each on.

Incorporating opportunities to co-design along with collaboration engages partners in new ways, to align with their interests, experience, and aspirations.

Some want to spend time in deeper learning, while others are ready to take action in small and large efforts. There is room in the Network for all who want to make North Sound a place where all feel they belong.

## Brave spaces

We will need to challenge long-held beliefs about structures and systems, recognizing that they were put in place to intentionally advantage some and explicitly disadvantage or exclude others. Stepping into those conversations is sometimes inspiring and at other times really tough. Each time we ‘think outside the box’ we realize that there is yet another box to find our way out of.

We use the term ‘brave spaces’ rather than ‘safe spaces,’ because rarely are spaces actually safe for everyone in a room. But being brave and finding ways to support voices that emerge from lived experience and generational trauma will help us shape new goals as we look forward.

## How does North Sound ACH support network partners?

North Sound ACH supports this incubator space – with project managers, technology resources for virtual and in-person meetings, a communications team to help get the word out about your work and ideas, consultants and resources to provide skill-building and expert advice, and funds that can leverage other funders to support the work. Network partners also gain an introduction to others in the network for collaboration, learning, and networking.







## What kinds of opportunities are open to members of the Network?

- **Learning Series:** North Sound ACH hosts a virtual learning series, bringing the voices of local partners and people, intersecting with national experts on the intersections of health, well-being, race, and equity. Out of these sessions, a curated set of resources is building the North Sound Resource Library to help with guided learning.
- **In-Person Convenings:** Since 2018, North Sound ACH has hosted multi-day conferences for partners. Rich learning combined with deep relationship- and skill-building has made the sessions very powerful.
- **Idea development:** Network partners have proposed almost 60 project ideas that bring multiple organizations working together, focusing on populations most impacted by inequities and structural barriers. North Sound ACH works to leverage available resources to support those project ideas.
- **Emergency response:** Since the onset of COVID-19, community partners have come together to advance response and recovery efforts in additional ways, filling the gap of immediate needs such as food, medication, testing, vaccines, and more. Community organizations, including North Sound ACH team members, were on the ground during COVID-19 surges and 2021 flooding catastrophes, helping community members navigate available resources in multiple languages, and leveraging financial support where they were most needed.
- **Communities of Practice:** There are times when folks want to gather around a particular topic, practice, or affinity group; to share and be in community, to learn and grow, to build relationships. We are supporting a peer-based structure called Communities of Practice, and are excited to see what the Network members want in terms of structure and support for these groups.



## **I love all this! How can I join?**

The Network is open to all individuals and organizations who sign on to the common beliefs, objectives, and agreements contained in the [overview/summary](#) document. Joining is as simple as signing your name that you will uphold these agreements and contribute your knowledge, resources, point of view, lived experience, and passion to the Network.

Please reach out to Innovation Specialist Keiko McCracken (Keiko@NorthSoundACH.org) to schedule a one-on-one meeting with you or staff from your organization. Keiko will share materials, discuss the Network, and answer your questions!



***We need a strong and dependable health care system, but there are many other factors that will help our communities thrive. We believe that we can dream big, and that there are untapped resources to help us address the housing crisis, food insecurity, disaster recovery, rural health access, and structural inequities in healthcare and health services. To get there, we need a growing Network of people like you.***



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