

# Accountable Communities for Health Sustainability

## THE ISSUE

Accountable Communities for Health (ACH), also termed Accountable Care Communities and Accountable Health Communities, are intended as multi-payer, multi-sector alliances of the major healthcare systems, providers, and health plans, along with public health, community and social services organizations, schools, and other partners serving a particular geographic area. An ACH is responsible for improving the health of the entire community – with particular attention to achieving greater health equity – through an aligned portfolio of clinical, social service, linkage, and policy/systems/environment strategies. The ACH concept has been gaining momentum nationally as a leading-edge approach to achieving ambitious Triple Aim goals and community-level health improvements. As the concept moves to implementation, it is critical to identify strategies and facilitators that can lead to sustainable multi-payer investment in ACH initiatives.

## THE PROJECT

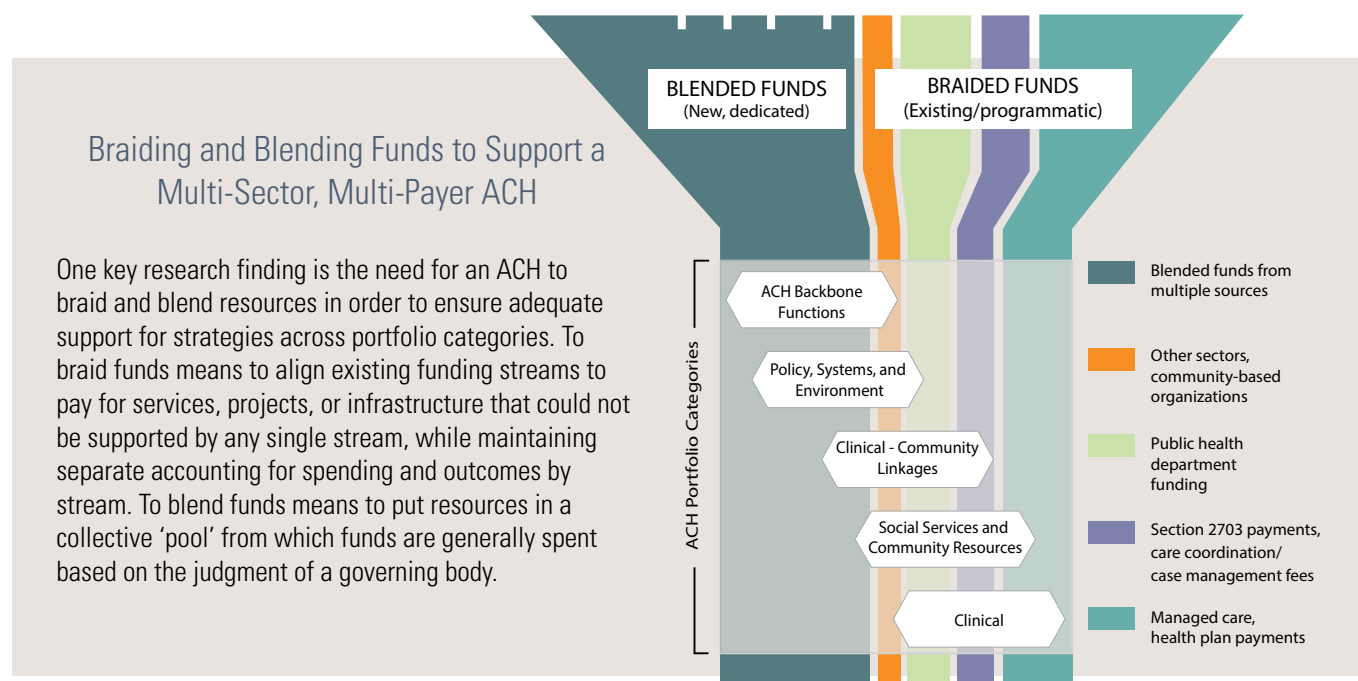
Beginning in the fall of 2014, The California Endowment supported JSI to investigate existing and potential strategies for engaging multiple payers to support potential ACH initiatives. JSI reviewed national peer-reviewed and gray literature and conducted in-depth discussions with over 20 key informants. Key informants were selected based on their innovative work in healthcare payment reform, funding for community health, multi-payer initiatives, philanthropy, hospital community benefits, and social impact bonds and pay-for-success initiatives. JSI qualitatively analyzed the data to identify key themes and opportunities to structure and implement a sustainable ACH.

## THE RESULTS

JSI produced a report titled *Accountable Communities for Health: Strategies for Financial Sustainability* (May 2015). The report lays out:

- Four principles for sustainability along the dimensions of leadership, collaboration, measurement, and financing
- Fifteen specific strategies across three distinct phases: formation, implementation, and reinvestment

The report has been widely referenced and posted on prominent health reform websites, and has directly informed implementation efforts in a number of communities.



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