



www.wacommunitiesconnect.org

Who we are and what we do

Formed informally five years ago, Communities Connect (CC) is a network of concerned community based and statewide organizations and individuals. Our members are committed to working together at the local level and collectively advocating at the state and national level to improve health care access in Washington State. Through collaboration CC members promote solutions to identified local issues and removal of barriers to health care access, share best practices and provides collective, bipartisan support and strength to address issues at the state policy and agency level. Our mission is to:

- Foster and support grassroots efforts to promote health systems change.
- Support information sharing among communities on topics such as: creative solutions to health care access
- Promote access to a statewide network of local communities working on common health care issues.
- Develop shared policy objectives for systems change at the local, state and federal levels.

By aligning state and local community resources, we achieve common goals together!

Communities Connect is a nonpartisan group that meets regularly. Membership is open to any individual or community based or statewide organization whose focus is on working with their community to address and improve health care for the people of their community.

Communities Connect promotes the sharing of best practices across the state and uses the combined voice of its membership to affect changes in state programs that support community solutions to health care access. Current CC membership represents 28 of the 39 counties in Washington State.

CC members include: *Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance, Thurston-Mason County Medical Society, CHOICE Regional Health Network, Community Choice Healthcare, Community-Minded Enterprises, Free Clinic of SW Washington, King County Project Access, Kids Get Care, Molina Healthcare of Washington, Inc., Skagit Valley Hospital, Spokane County Project Access, Washington Health Foundation, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access, WithinReach*

Membership information

CC annual membership dues are:

- \$1,000 a year for statewide partners
- \$600 a year for Community Partners
- \$100 a year for non-voting individual members

CC members have access to:

- Membership in CJA: Communities Joined in Action (national organization)
- A grassroots effort to promote health system change
- Information and peer technical assistance among communities trying to improve local health care access
- A statewide network of leaders and experts

Legal Status: CC is not formally incorporated. The Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access provides administrative support for *Communities Connects*.

Contact Information:

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Communities Connect...What We've Accomplished (2005 – 2008)

- ❖ Support and passage of Pharmacy Foundation bill in 2005 legislative session
- ❖ Support and passage of 2005 budget proviso requiring DSHS study of to identify incentives for private physicians to see Medicaid, underinsured and uninsured patients
- ❖ Active support which resulted in passage of Senate Bill 6459 in 2006 creating the Community Collaborative Grant Program which provided over \$2 million in grants in the last two years.
- ❖ Actively participated in the Blue Ribbon Commission process which resulted in recommendations encouraging working with community based organizations in implementing state health policy initiatives.
- ❖ Joined the Health Coalition for Children and Youth in 2007 in supporting passage of Cover All Kids legislation resulting in \$4 million committed to kids outreach around the state
- ❖ Worked with Senate sponsors and key stakeholders on revisions to SB 5100 (School outreach bill) which passed in 2008. Bill provides for a pilot that will test the expansion of community based organizations to work directly with schools on school outreach to uninsured kids.
- ❖ Active participants on Cover All Kids work groups and implementation efforts as well as representatives and resource on many state health policy initiatives
- ❖ Committed to further learning and growing of community collaboratives across the state including providing technical assistance and moral support
- ❖ Sponsor of two state wide conferences committed to “new learnings”, sharing of best practices and networking for building community collaboratives capacity.



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Membership Form

Please complete this form and return to Whatcom Alliance for Health Care Access (see below for membership levels). Checks should be mailed to:

Communities Connect
c/o Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access
800 E Chestnut, LL Ste. 2
Bellingham, WA 98225

Make checks payable to: Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Website: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Others in your organization to add to our email distribution list:

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Indicate how you wish your name and organization to be listed on materials:

How did you learn about Communities Connect? _____

Additional information about your community:

Service Area: _____

Population: _____ % Uninsured: _____

Congressional District(s): _____ Legislative District(s): _____

We participate in the following funding programs:

HRSA: HCAP
 Network Development
 Outreach

KELLOGG: Community Voices
 Turning Point
 Other: _____

- RWJF: Communities in Charge
 Covering Kids and Families
 State Coverage Initiatives
 Other: _____
- UNITED WAY: _____

- HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL TRUST: _____
- OTHERS: _____

Indicate your membership level:

- Policy Partner** **\$1,000 annually**
 Membership is open to health-related foundations and academia. Policy Partners are members of Communities Connect with all rights and privileges.
- Community Partner** **\$600 annually**
 Membership open to community-based health agencies and non-profit
 Community/district/county or regional organizations dedicated to working on health care access and other health issues. Community Partners are voting members of Communities Connect and membership in the national organization Communities Joined in Action (www.cjaonline.net) is also included.
- Individual Level** **\$ 100 annually or limited sponsorship available**
 Membership are open to individuals who are dedicated to working on health care access and other health care issues and who receive endorsement by a Communities Connect Community Partner. Individuals are members of Communities Connect with all rights and privileges except to vote.

Amount of Payment Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

Upon receipt of this form and your check, you will be added to the Communities Connect email list and provided with orientation materials and an updated schedule of meetings.

Membership dues cover the period of January 1- December 31, 2008.