

# Reducing chronic disease harms through community-clinical linkages

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) connects and facilitates collaboration among partners to promote lifelong health and wellbeing.

When public health, clinics, and community partners work together, people in Minnesota have better access to the resources they need to prevent, delay, or manage chronic diseases.

## MDH fosters community-clinical linkages:

- ✓ Convenes for shared learning and **collective impact**
- ✓ Facilitates multisector and longstanding **partnerships**
- ✓ Builds **capacity** within clinic and health systems
- ✓ Supports implementation of **evidence-based strategies**
- ✓ Provides **data and resources** to catalyze local efforts
- ✓ Scales local successes towards **statewide impact**
- ✓ Consults on best practices for **health equity** and quality improvement
- ✓ Coordinates with state agencies for **implementation**

**MDH enhances community-clinical linkages and collaboration among partners:**



# Community, clinic, and public health collaboration in action

Hundreds of partnerships, thousands of projects. To read more stories in action, visit [health.state.mn.us/about/org/hpcd](http://health.state.mn.us/about/org/hpcd).

## Food is medicine: Supporting access to healthy food to improve health in west central Minnesota

### CHALLENGE

Four of the five counties served by Horizon Public Health have food insecurity rates higher than the state rate.

### SOLUTIONS

Through SHIP, Horizon Public Health implemented a Food Rx program that helps people with chronic conditions get healthy foods.

- Clinics screen patients for food insecurity and connect them to resources.
- SHIP staff connect health care and food partners, improving food insecurity screening and referrals.
- Local food shelves and banks provide food to patients. Over 200 people a month receive over 15 lbs. of fresh produce.



**“As food needs surged, we made food insecurity screening a part of every clinic visit and ensured patients who need help are directly connected to food resources.”**

## Screening is prevention: Expanding access across Minnesota through mobile mammography

### CHALLENGE

American Indians have the highest rates of late-stage breast cancer in Minnesota. Distance to clinics and transportation barriers make it difficult for women from Bois Forte to get screened.

### SOLUTIONS

The Sage Program facilitated a screening event on the Bois Forte Reservation, screening over 90 women in three days.

- Essentia Health provided a mobile mammography van.
- Bois Forte Tribal Clinic did outreach, scheduled patients, and conducted the exams.
- American Indian Cancer Foundation provided expertise to connect with Tribal communities in culturally sensitive ways and co-developed a screening event toolkit with Sage.



**“Mobile mammography helps us reach individuals who otherwise might never get screened, giving them a real chance to catch cancer early and survive.”**

*—Tina Nelson, MDH Cancer Programs Director*

## Caring together: Improving health in the St. Paul Rondo and Capitol Heights communities

### CHALLENGE

Rondo experiences disproportionately high rates of hypertension, heart disease, and other chronic conditions.

### SOLUTIONS

Local clinics, public health, and community-based organizations are all working together to screen community members for clinical and social needs and connect them to services and supports.

- **Clinics** screen patients for clinical and social needs.
- **Community-based organizations** provide local resources and connect back to clinics.
- **MDH** created a learning collaborative with partners.



**“This community cares about each other’s heart health.”**

*—Learning Collaborative Community Member*