

U.S. Public Health Accompaniment Unit: Building Stronger And More Just Public Health Systems



In many parts of the United States, there is a 20-plus year gap in life expectancy between low-income communities of color and their affluent white counterparts. As a country, we have consistently deprioritized and under-invested in public health, primary care, and the social determinants of health, such as access to food and safe housing. When COVID-19 hit the U.S. in early 2020, the devastating consequences of our fragmented health system became even more apparent—but **it also created an opportunity to drive transformative change.**

Inspired by Partners In Health's 30-plus year track record of fighting epidemics and strengthening health systems around the world, the United States Public Health Accompaniment Unit (USPHAU) is working shoulder-to-shoulder with partners around the country to advise, implement, and troubleshoot

new strategies and initiatives to catalyze an equity-driven response to COVID-19, while preparing for the recovery and rebuild efforts that we know must urgently follow.

Our work is both pragmatic and aspirational, driven by our core values. We strive for justice; accompany our partners with first-class technical guidance and nimble operational problem-solving; enliven new and ambitious public health agendas around the country; work to dismantle systemic racism in the health system; amplify voices and lessons from communities where we work to influence broader national change; and combat failures of moral imagination.

This broad vision will help stop COVID-19 in the short-term, while creating stronger, more accessible and just public health systems well into the future.

OUR APPROACH

Since USPHAU launched in May 2020, our work has expanded to include all facets of the community-based COVID-19 response. We have trained and scaled up numerous contact tracing teams that include integrated care resource coordination; established community partnerships for more robust, far-reaching problem-solving; convened implementers to accelerate best practice sharing; and advocated at the highest levels of government for a more effective response to COVID-19. And, when the challenge of vaccine distribution fell largely to local agencies and organizations, we worked with our partners to establish vaccine rollout and community outreach plans centered on greater equity and access.

These efforts have created a network of public health professionals, policymakers, community leaders, health workers, and donors with a shared vision: innovative, effective responses to the pandemic that focus on the most vulnerable. Together, we've laid the groundwork for rebuilding a stronger public health system across the nation.

TECHNICAL ADVISING

We accompany local jurisdictions with the Technical Advising, resources, and networks they need to drive rapid, equitable, and effective roll-out of COVID-19 response efforts. Our Technical Advising teams work as both strategic advisers and partners in implementation and operations, rolling up their sleeves to tackle “in-the-weeds” issues faced by front-line providers.

LEARNING & IMPACT

Our Learning Collaborative brings together individuals from local health departments, community-based organizations, health care and service delivery providers, to discuss common challenges, exchange emerging best practices, and share resources. With a focus on tools and recommendations to support swift implementation, we aim to share practical, adaptable information with frontline leaders and practitioners.

ADVOCACY

We engage and advocate at the highest levels of the U.S. government to connect the dots between policies and pathways established at the federal, state, and local levels, and the community stakeholders who must navigate those policies and pathways to operate strong community public health systems.

OUR FOCUS

1. Building capacity of public health departments

to deliver health equity and sustain resilient responses to novel challenges.

2. Strengthening the integration of services addressing social determinants of health—such as food, referrals to care, and insurance and housing programs—within health care across public and private sectors.

3. Institutionalizing community health workers and promotoras as a core component of a sustained community-based health workforce.

4. Centering community leadership in defining strategic priorities of local health and providers in order to improve primary care coverage and available resources.

OUR IMPACT

The U.S. Public Health Accompaniment Unit has helped communities across the nation build a more equitable and comprehensive public health response to COVID-19.

From May 2020 to April 2021, that impact includes:



1.3 million COVID-19 cases

contact traced and investigated



70,800+ households

connected to social support



49,000+ vaccines

facilitated to marginalized populations

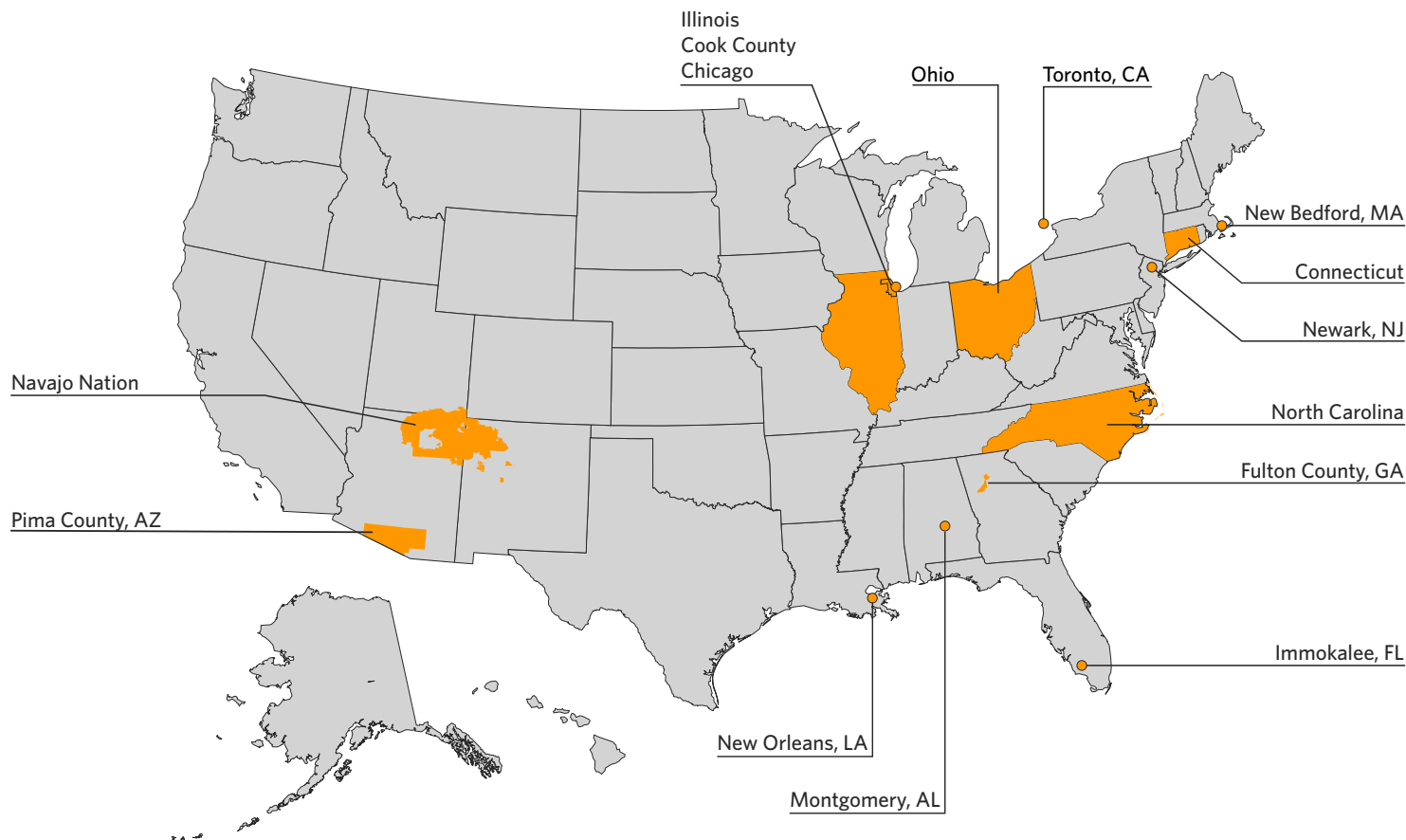


230+ partners supported

across state, county, and city health departments and community and advocacy organizations

WHERE WE WORK

We work shoulder-to-shoulder with states, counties, cities, tribal governments, and communities across the United States



@PartnersInHealth



@PIH



@PartnersInHealth



Info@PIH.org

WEB

For updates, visit > PIH.org/StopCovid