

## What is a Partner Network?

The Bright Spot Initiative (BSI) is an example of how state health departments implemented a partner network to work toward increasing enrollment in the National DPP lifestyle change program. The goal was to apply the principles of collective impact and health equity to support state health departments in creating and fostering strategic partnerships to reduce the prevalence of type 2 diabetes in their states by increasing awareness and enrollment in the National DPP lifestyle change program.

The BSI is also an example of broader work that incorporates [backbone organizations in collective impact](#). Lessons learned from previous projects, such as the [State Engagement Model](#), were applied to BSI to reach populations with prediabetes or at high-risk for type 2 diabetes to enhance the sustainability of the partner network. BSI extended over two years, providing funding, technical assistance, and peer-to-peer learning sessions for five participating state health departments.

For more information on the Bright Spot Initiative, visit the [Partner Networks](#) page on the Coverage Toolkit.



## Partner Networks

A partner network is a group of multisectoral organizations and community representatives that team up to advance a common goal or vision.

Partners leverage each other's expertise and reach to maximize their capacity and capabilities. In the context of type 2 diabetes prevention, collaborative partners can affect population and systems-level changes to increase awareness and enrollment in the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) lifestyle change program.

The National DPP lifestyle change program is an evidence-based intervention proven to prevent and or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.

# Collective Impact and Health Equity

[Collective impact](#) is a **network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity** by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems-level change. Equity can be achieved using collective impact through the partner network via shared learnings and integrated actions. Health equity is built into collective impact by practicing the following five strategies:



State health departments considering a partner network approach to increasing enrollment should incorporate health equity throughout their and their partners' activities. CDC [defines](#) health equity as the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Health equity implies that everyone has a fair opportunity to achieve their full health potential, and [achieving health equity](#) would mean the removal of “avoidable, unfair, or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other means of stratification.”