



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
**CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS**

Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

**GUIDING LIGHTS IN**  
Chronic Disease Prevention:  
Leading with **Vision** and **Compassion**

**2025**  
**MEMBER**  
**GUIDE**

We ENVISION a world  
where

All people



***“We are all impassioned public health advocates at our core, and that really keeps us working in the same direction.”***

*—Rebecca O’Reilly, Vermont Department of Health*

*NACDD 2025 Board of Directors pictured with the Executive Leadership Team*

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# A Welcome from Our CEO

Dear NACDD Member,

We are thrilled to share our 2025 Member Guide with you! This guide is designed to help new Members discover the tools, best practices, and services available to make the most of your National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) membership.

The theme of this year's guide, *Guiding Lights in Chronic Disease Prevention: Leading with Vision and Compassion*, reflects our unwavering commitment to support and guide you in creating healthier, more resilient communities.

NACDD is always here to support our state and territorial jurisdictions in their

efforts to prevent chronic disease and to improve public health. We invest in our Members through training, leadership development, and valuable peer and mentoring experiences. As a guiding force, we aim to shine a light on the path forward, helping you drive progress and innovation in chronic disease prevention.

To learn more, please contact our Member Services Team at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org). You'll also find their contact information on page 11.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with you in 2025 and beyond, as we work together to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic disease.

In good health,



John W. Robitscher, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer





NACDD's Atlanta billboard campaign in Spring 2024.

## Our Story

For over 35 years, NACDD has been a leading and influential voice for all those who seek to end the burden of chronic disease in the U.S. and its territories. We do this by supporting the professional growth and development of state and territorial health officials. Every decision made by NACDD is made with our 7,000+ Members in mind.

We know our Members may come to NACDD for different reasons, yet as we face an increasingly challenging public health landscape, one thing remains constant:

**NACDD is here to serve you so that you can best serve your community.**

As a national, nonprofit, professional association, we advocate, educate, and provide technical assistance to inform programming and grow chronic disease prevention knowledge, leadership, and capacity among our membership.

## Mission & Values

### Our Mission

NACDD improves the health of the public by strengthening state and national leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control. NACDD promotes social justice and wellbeing so that communities can build healthier futures.

### Our Vision

We envision a world where all people reach their full health potential, free from burdens of chronic disease.

**Our Mission and Vision were approved by NACDD's Board of Directors to signify NACDD's approach to chronic disease prevention and control.**

## By the Numbers

**100+**

CDC-funded  
public health  
projects

**260 M**

Americans reached  
through project  
collaboration

**7,000+**

Public health  
professionals and  
thought leaders

**59**

State and Territorial  
Chronic Disease  
Directors

**73**

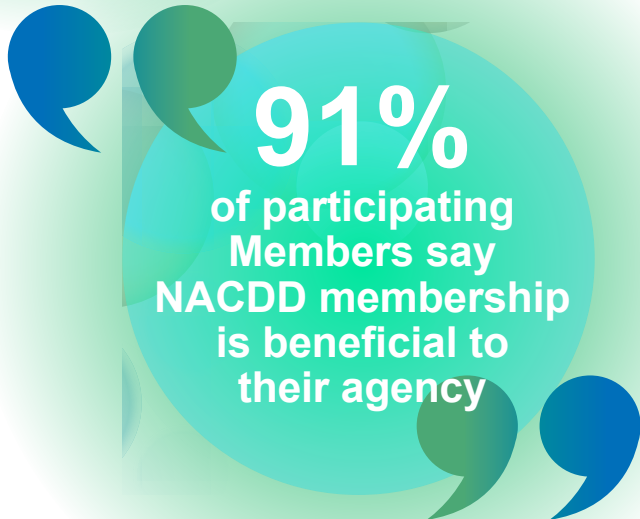
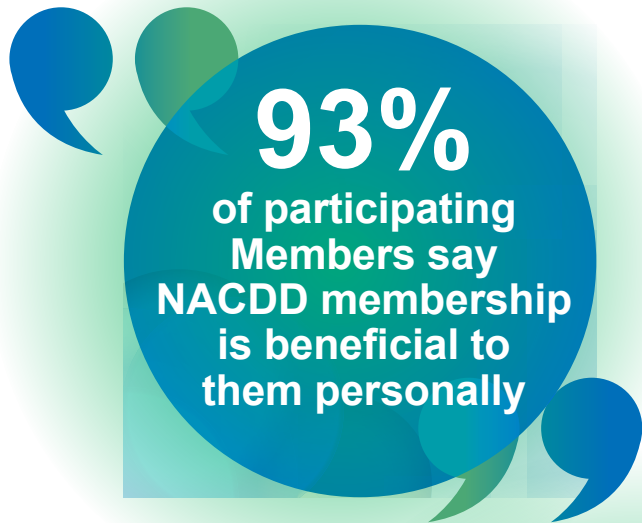
Staff  
Members

**58**

Subject  
Matter  
Experts

**\$45+ M**

Program revenue  
per year



—NACDD All Member Survey, 2024

## GETTING ACQUAINTED:

Who We Are

# FY 2025 Board of Directors

## Executive Committee



**Lea Susan Ojamaa, MPH**  
*President, Massachusetts*

Lea Susan Ojamaa is a Deputy Director for the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She serves as Chronic Director for the state and provides strategic leadership and management to the Prevention and Wellness Branch of the Bureau. Lea Susan is pleased to be part of a team in Massachusetts that is working to move strategies upstream to address root causes of health inequities and the social determinants of health. Creating healthy and more equitable communities is what brought and keeps Lea Susan in public health.



**Bala Simon, MD, DrPH, MPH, FAFP**  
*Past President, Arkansas*

Bala Simon is a board-certified Family and Preventive Medicine Physician. Bala obtained his medical degree (MD) from India and completed a family medicine residency from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in Little Rock, AR. He further completed a fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Preventive Medicine Residency and Fellowship program and became board certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. He obtained his Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) with emphasis in Health Policy and Epidemiology from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health.

Bala serves as the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Arkansas Department of Health and the State Chronic Disease Director. In this capacity, he provides clinical oversight and leadership to several clinical programs including chronic disease programs such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, tobacco control and prevention, nutrition and physical activity, and substance misuse and injury prevention across the state through Arkansas Department of Health's 94 Local Health Units. Additionally, he serves as an adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at UAMS Family Medical Center clinic where he provides clinical care to patients; and teaches medical students and residents. Bala also serves as an adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Epidemiology in UAMS College of Public Health.



*“I first joined the Board to further connect with colleagues across the country and advance the work happening in my state, yet it is so much more than that. It is an opportunity to work with other public health professionals to inform and advance effective public health practice and strategy. NACDD is a national leader in chronic disease prevention, and I am honored to take part in the work.”*

—Lea Susan Ojamaa, MPH



**Teresa Aseret-Manygoats, MPA**  
*President-Elect, Arizona*

Teresa Aseret-Manygoats serves as the Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Chronic Disease and Health Promotion at the Arizona Department of Health Services. Teresa has over 24 years of experience working in the public health field with expertise in program evaluation and data coordination; community engagement; and developing and implementing public health approaches and initiatives that address population health; social determinants of health; health equity; and policy, system and environmental change. Teresa previously worked at the third most populous local public health jurisdiction in the U.S., Maricopa County Department of Public Health in Phoenix, AZ, and a non-profit Tribal organization serving Tribes in Arizona. Teresa is Filipina, and an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.



**Nancy Sutton, MS, RD**  
*Secretary, Rhode Island*

Nancy Sutton has been the Chief of the Center for Chronic Care and Disease Management within the Rhode Island Department of Health since 2016 and has worked in public health since 1990. Her current work focuses on the prevention and management of chronic diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular health, cancer, Alzheimer’s and related dementias, healthy eating, and active living. Nancy works with programs internal and external to the department to integrate key elements across chronic disease programs and throughout larger system-level initiatives.



**Khatidja Dawood, MS**  
*Treasurer, Minnesota*

Khatidja Dawood serves as the Director of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Division for the Minnesota Department of Health. Khatidja has experience in program management and a well-demonstrated history working in public health. Khatidja received her MS in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University School of Public Health. Throughout her professional career, Khatidja has gained experience in organizational leadership, program planning, evaluation prevention, and team building.

*Current and former Board members along with Vice President, Public Health Leadership, Jeanne Alongi (second from left).*



# FY 2025 Board of Directors

## At Large and Associate Directors & Emeritus Members

### At Large Directors



**Margaret Chaykin, MPH, CHES, RDN, CD**  
*Washington*



**Lainey Faulkner, MHS, CPTA**  
*Kansas*



**Jill Myers Gadelmann, BS, RN**  
*Iowa*



**X-ner Luther**  
*Federated States of Micronesia*



**Kimberly McDonald, MD, MPH**  
*North Carolina*



**Amber Mendiola-Romolor**  
*Northern Mariana Islands*



**Ashley Minaei, MPH, CPH**  
*Alaska*



**Kia Toodle, MEd, CPM**  
*Georgia*



**Barbara Wallace, MD, MSPH**  
*New York*



**Felisa Wilson-Simpson, PhD,  
FNP-BC, PPCNP-BC**  
*Mississippi*

**Associate At Large Director**



**Morgan McDonald, MD, FACP, FAAP**  
*Tennessee*

**Emeritus Board Member**



**Dr. David Hoffman, DPS, CCE**  
*New York*



# Meet Our Leadership Team

NACDD succeeds through our strong core of seasoned and dedicated professionals who serve as our Executive and Senior

Leaders. Our leadership team as well as our full staff are committed to supporting our membership in their efforts to build capacity

in chronic disease prevention and control and health promotion.

## Executive Leadership



**John W. Robitscher, MPH**  
Chief Executive Officer  
[JRobitscher@chronicdisease.org](mailto:JRobitscher@chronicdisease.org)



**Marti Macchi, MEd, MPH**  
Chief Program Strategy Officer  
[MMacchi@chronicdisease.org](mailto:MMacchi@chronicdisease.org)



**Tamika Smith, MBA, MS, PMP**  
Chief Operations Officer  
[TSmith@chronicdisease.org](mailto:TSmith@chronicdisease.org)

## Senior Leadership Team



**Jeanne Alongi, DrPH, MPH**  
VP, Center for Public Health Leadership  
[JAlongi@chronicdisease.org](mailto:JAlongi@chronicdisease.org)



**Jeremy ArieH**  
Sr. Director of Communications and Member Services  
[JArieH@chronicdisease.org](mailto:JArieH@chronicdisease.org)



**Stephanie Cantillo, PHR**  
Sr. Director, Human Resources  
[SCantillo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:SCantillo@chronicdisease.org)



**Samaha Hodges, MPH**  
Sr. Director of Programs  
[SHodges@chronicdisease.org](mailto:SHodges@chronicdisease.org)



**Ali Jaglowski, MSH**  
VP, Center for Advancing Healthy Communities  
[AJaglowski@chronicdisease.org](mailto:AJaglowski@chronicdisease.org)



**John W. Patton**  
VP, Center for Partnerships and Innovation  
[JPatton@chronicdisease.org](mailto:JPatton@chronicdisease.org)



**Liz Ruth, MPA**  
VP, Center for Health Policy  
[LRuth@chronicdisease.org](mailto:LRuth@chronicdisease.org)



**Robyn Taylor, MBA**  
VP, Center for Health Promotion  
[RTaylor@chronicdisease.org](mailto:RTaylor@chronicdisease.org)

## NACDD Staff & Consultants

NACDD thrives thanks to the dedication and expertise of our diverse team of professionals. Our staff energizes our Mission and is the driving source of excellence behind NACDD's work.

We offer a number of services: fiscal agency, meeting and event planning, communications, technical support, logistics and procurement, professional development, program evaluation, public health crisis response, and assistance in the delivery of grant implementation.

As an undercurrent of all that we do, we take great pride knowing that we are helping people in the United States to live healthier lives.



## Member Services Team

The NACDD Member Services team's goal is to provide best-in-class service and support to NACDD's Members and Chronic Disease Directors.

Members are encouraged to reach out to [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) for support relating to your membership needs, including but not limited to the Member Portal, the Engage Community, success stories, site visits, engagement opportunities, and other Member resources.

We are excited to support you in your role as a chronic disease health professionals and would enjoy getting to know more about you, so we can ensure that you realize the full benefit of your NACDD membership.



**Sarah Perkins, MEd**  
*Member Engagement Manager*  
[SPerkins@chronicdisease.org](mailto:SPerkins@chronicdisease.org)



**Laura Weikle**  
*Member Support Manager*  
[LWeikle@chronicdisease.org](mailto:LWeikle@chronicdisease.org)

For a full listing of NACDD staff, please visit <https://chronicdisease.org/our-staff/>.

# Centers of Excellence

*Our structure is built around five key areas—Healthy Communities, Leadership, Policy, Health Promotion, and Innovation and Partnerships. These “Centers of Excellence” mark an important evolution in NACDD’s history, reflecting our growth and expanding impact on public health.*

## Center for Advancing Healthy Communities

The Center for Advancing Healthy Communities (CAHC) supports state, local, and territorial programs through several initiatives focused on, but not limited to, food and nutrition security, physical activity and the built environment, tobacco cessation, social connectedness, and mental health. CAHC offers technical assistance and training for program implementation, while enhancing capabilities and resources, promoting health-focused policy and environmental changes, and fostering collaborative partnerships for mutual benefit.

## Center for Public Health Leadership

The Center for Public Health Leadership (CPHL) provides a combination of expertise, resources, thought leadership, and support enabling Members to act boldly in their approach to the health and wellness of all people in the communities they serve.

The Center’s work is organized around three central areas:

**Workforce Development:** Ensuring that the public workforce is highly functioning and responsive to community needs and aware of and implementing evidence-based public health practices.

**Strategic Leadership:** Cultivating thought leadership and innovation.

**Organizational Capacity:** Giving State and Territorial health departments the tools, insights, and resources they need to fulfill their missions.

## Center for Health Promotion

The Center for Health Promotion provides resources and tools, capacity building, training, technical assistance, and sharing opportunities to NACDD Members and chronic disease staff working in State Health Departments.

**“During my first six months as the Chronic Disease Director in my state, NACDD proved to be an invaluable resource. Their expertise, peer connections, and wealth of tools empowered me to navigate the complexities of my new role with confidence.”**

—*Brianna Cochran MPH, DHHS Chronic Disease Program Manager II, Nebraska*

## Center for Health Policy

The Center for Health Policy (CHP) leverages its long-running success in advocacy to ensure chronic disease prevention is included in all policies, including housing, and transportation. NACDD is uniquely positioned to be an influential voice in policy discussions about funding state chronic disease programs, investing in primary prevention, and strengthening and expanding evidence-based programs that prevent chronic disease and promote population health.

## Center for Innovation and Partnerships

NACDD serves as a vital bridge between state Chronic Disease Directors and federal chronic disease prevention and control efforts. Our strong partnerships have enabled us to conduct groundbreaking work with software, media, research, and marketing firms, transforming outdated chronic disease interventions into relevant 21st-century tools for State Health Departments and their partners.

# Featured Project

## Walkability Action Institute Achieves Milestone and National Recognition

NACDD and its Center for Advancing Healthy Communities (CAHC) celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Walkability Action Institute (WAI) project in 2024. This milestone provided an opportunity to honor the dedication and hard work of many who continue to champion and utilize this innovative, experiential course as a catalyst for creating and sustaining meaningful design changes in our communities and states.

Improved and inclusive community and transportation design help reshape the places where we live, learn, work, play, pray, and receive care, ensuring that we can more easily access the amenities necessary for a thriving life. WAI serves as a platform for engaging in critical conversations in a supportive environment. It challenges participants to intentionally consider those who may not look or move like us and encourages investment in areas that have historically been underfunded or excluded from infrastructure opportunities.

Karma Edwards, an NACDD consultant, has led the WAI project nationally and has managed the program since its inception, starting with the first cohort in Nashville, Tennessee in 2015. That initial cohort brought together 10 interdisciplinary



*Karma Edwards (center, back) with a Walkability Action Institute team in Daytona, Florida*

state teams and two regional teams, totaling 63 participants. Since then, the program has reached over 60 million people across 99 locations in 36 states and two U.S./Pacific Territories/Islands. Collectively these teams have voluntarily self-reported more than 1,400 outcomes to improve community and transportation design by making their locations more walkable and movable, and have leveraged nearly \$540,000,000 to help implement this important work.

Karma was recently recognized when she was selected as a recipient of the 2024 President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition Community Leadership Award. She received the honor for her service and dedication to improving lives through her work in advancing physical activity, fitness, and nutrition across the nation.

For more information contact Karma Edwards at [kedwards\\_ic@chronicdisease.org](mailto:kedwards_ic@chronicdisease.org).

# Strategic Map

**A** Be a Model Public

**B** Advance Health Equity,

**C** Lead in Policy and Advocacy

**D** Be a Catalyst to Grow State/Territorial Capacity to Address Systemic and Upstream Factors

1	Advocate for Policies that Advance Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in States/Territories	Integrate Upstream Factors into Technical Assistance, Training and Professional Development for States/Territories
2	Develop and Engage NACDD Members, Staff, and Partners to Strengthen Policy and Advocacy	Expand Access to Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health Data
3	Develop Model Legislation/Policy Positions & Statements	Influence Investment for States/Territories to Address Upstream Factors
4	Monitor, Analyze and Disseminate Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Policy Information	Assess the Current Landscape to Target and Define Upstream Factors to Be Addressed
5		Use Data to Connect Social Inequities to Chronic Disease Outcomes
6		Facilitate Integration of Upstream Factors into Programs
7		

FY 2025 Priorities



# 2022–2027

Health Organization

Racial Equity and Social Justice

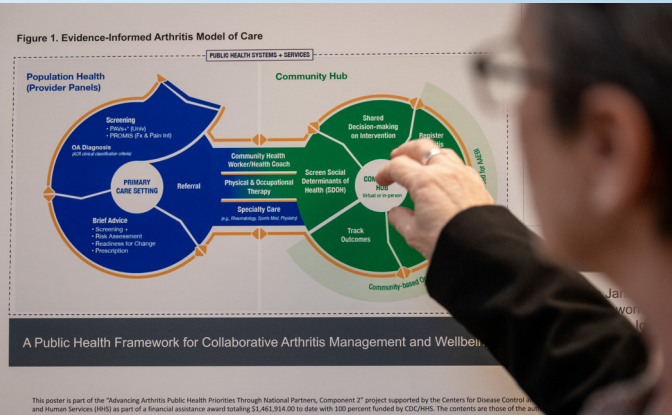
Our Board of Directors and Senior Leadership develop our Strategic Plan every five years with each year emphasizing different focus areas in line with current workforce and program priorities. Our FY25 strategic priorities are highlighted in blue on the Strategic Map.

**E Accelerate Workforce Development in States/Territories**

**F Advance a Strong, Diversified Portfolio**

Strengthen Bidirectional Communication and Relationships with States/Territories	Develop and Implement a Portfolio Diversification Plan that Ensures Association Resiliency
Expand Capacity for Chronic Disease Leaders to Prepare for and Respond to Emerging Health Threats	Evolve Association Governance and Leadership to Support Anticipated Growth
Support Resilience and Change Management Efforts for the Existing Public Health Workforce	Develop Programs that Address Emerging Chronic Disease and Health Promotion Issues
Engage Members in Professional Development and Innovation	Recruit, Develop and Retain Highly Qualified Diverse Staff and Consultants
Identify and Disseminate Model Practices	Identify Funding Opportunities for States, Territories, and Diverse Partners
Advance the Integration of Health Promotion and Behavioral Health into Chronic Disease Programs	
Provide Opportunities for States/Territories to Collaborate with Health Systems and Payers	

# Guiding Principles



## For Shaping the Future Health Landscape

The following future-looking statements are designed to internally guide staff, leadership, board members and stakeholders to the overall purpose of NACDD activities and serve to connect the mission (what NACDD does) to the vision (what NACDD endeavors to achieve).

- Where the public, stakeholders and decision-makers understand the value of chronic disease prevention and control with regard to broadly improving health, well-being, productivity and reducing costs.
- Where convenient, healthy choices abound for all and healthy behaviors are a regular part of daily life where people live, learn, work, worship, and play.
- Where there is broad and equitable access to evidence-based programs and services for the prevention and management of chronic disease.
- Where health systems are designed to ensure proactive, culturally relevant and linguistically effective, population-based approaches to prevent and manage chronic disease.
- Where community-based health programs support the prevention and management of chronic disease for all people and are seamlessly coordinated with clinical care.
- Where the public health workforce is equipped with timely, reliable, and comprehensive information regarding all aspects of chronic disease, giving special attention to identify and work together with at-risk groups.



### NACDD is Developing a New Generation of Leaders

NACDD believes that state-based leadership and expertise in chronic disease prevention and control are vital to achieve its action.

### NACDD is Working Toward a Future

- Where every state and territory will have public health leadership that can envision, motivate, and enlist partners,

and guide a coordinated response to chronic disease prevention and control in ways that are strategic, collaborative, and in alignment with federal initiatives.

- Where state-based chronic disease units are the standard bearers of excellence in meeting all relevant public health accreditation standards.
- Where each state and territory has the resources and strategic information necessary to sustain chronic disease programming and related policies.

- Where all states and territorial health departments are equipped and empowered to effectively leverage their unique position, regarding the education of both official and unofficial policy makers.
- That includes an empowered and informed state-based chronic disease workforce with specific knowledge and expertise that enables implementation of national priorities within a state context.

**SHOWCASING WHAT'S NEW:**  
Recent Highlights

# What's New at NACDD

## Decatur Headquarters

In January 2024, NACDD proudly opened its new headquarters in downtown Decatur, GA. To commemorate, we hosted an open house that welcomed our partners, friends, consultants, and community members for memorable conversation and celebration.

Our new office is thoughtfully designed with our Members in mind. Conveniently located near Atlanta, it offers an ideal setting for State Health Departments to coordinate retreats, staff meetings, trainings, and small conferences, all while exploring the vibrant Greater Atlanta area.

We look forward to fostering collaboration and innovation in our new space! For information, contact [EventInfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:EventInfo@chronicdisease.org)



*Exterior of the new NACDD headquarters offices at 101 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., in Decatur, Georgia.*

## State Orientation Visits

In 2024, the NACDD Member Services and Executive Team conducted orientation visits to several State Chronic Disease Units. We had the opportunity to visit with staff from the State Health Departments in Washington, Colorado, and Kansas.

State orientation visits offer a valuable opportunity for NACDD to connect with Members, share updates on benefits and

programming, and discuss the ideas, concerns, and challenges our Chronic Disease Units are facing.

## Online Learning Center

NACDD is excited to announce the launch of our enhanced Online Learning Center, featuring an extensive collection of professional development modules designed to enhance skills in the seven Chronic Disease Competency areas. The online modules are tailored to address real-world challenges faced by professionals in public health and chronic disease prevention and control.

Through the Online Learning Center, Members can explore available learning modules and maintain a record of their completed courses. Easily accessed through your Member Portal, all Members are invited to take advantage of this valuable resource for continuous learning and professional growth.



*Members of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at a 2024 state orientation visit.*

## Virtual Chronic Disease Academy

The 2024 virtual Chronic Disease Academy was held to build knowledge and skills among Chronic Disease Directors and their staff that supports the highest level of effective public health practice. Nearly 250 chronic disease health professionals participated virtually in Lightning Talk Sessions, on topics including Disability Inclusion, Collaboration with Payers Healthy Communities, Partnerships & Innovation, and SPINE Marketing. Make sure to Save-the-Date for our 2025 Chronic Disease Academy and Showcase scheduled September 9-12, 2025 in Atlanta, GA!

## Newsletters & Communications

We introduced several new newsletters to serve you (see page 30 for a listing of newsletters).

- All-In: The Disability Inclusion Network Newsletter
- Health and Lifestyle Training (HALT)
- Physical Activity and Nutrition

We encourage you to visit the Member Portal to update your email preferences to subscribe to these and any of our newsletters.

## New Engage Communities

Since the launch of our Member Portal and Engage Community, we introduced an extensive collection of communities of interest, including:

- Action on Arthritis
- Cancer Council
- Chronic Disease Directors (59 state and territorial directors, invitation only)
- Diabetes State Specialists

- Disability Inclusion Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention Advisory Board + Community of Practice
- Epidemiology and Surveillance Interest Group
- NACDD Board of Directors (directors only)
- NACDD Open Forum
- National Asthma Control Program
- and several others

Engage communities are designed and moderated by Members like you (as well as NACDD staff). Most communities are open to all Members, and we encourage you to join those that interest you personally and professionally.

See page 36-37 to learn more about accessing the Engage Community.

## HALT

Sponsored by Provention Health, HALT (Health and Lifestyle Training)



NACDD staff were recognized at a reception after being named a 2024 AJC Top Workplace.

is an online delivery platform that any CDC-recognized organization or approved provider can use to provide online health and wellness programming. To learn more, email [JPatton@chronicdisease.org](mailto:JPatton@chronicdisease.org)

## AJC Top Workplaces

NACDD was awarded a Top Workplaces 2024 honor by [Atlanta Journal-Constitution \(AJC\) Top Workplaces](#). We were recognized as one of the top 75 small businesses in the Atlanta-area based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by employee engagement technology partner Energage LLC.

AJC's Top Workplaces awards are based upon confidential surveys that uniquely measure the employee experience and its component themes, including employees feeling respected and supported, enabled to grow, and empowered to execute, among other metrics.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR NACDD MEMBERSHIP:

How to Get Started

# Overview of Your Membership

## Becoming a Member

Join NACDD today by visiting [chronicdisease.org](http://chronicdisease.org) and selecting Become a Member and the Member category that best reflects your role and affiliation with NACDD. Contact Member Services at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) with questions or for additional support. (see page 36-37 for detailed instructions).

NACDD's membership comprises more than 7,000 Members including State and Territorial Health Department chronic disease program staff as well as public health practitioners across multiple industries.

Member benefits include peer-to-peer networking, professional development and continuing education opportunities, mentoring, grant assistance, leadership-focused training, and much more.

If you would like to speak to our Member Services team, please email us at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) or visit our website for more information on membership and benefits.

## NACDD Membership Categories

### General Members

Employees of State and Territorial Health Departments who are working in chronic disease prevention and control programs. Eligible General Members also include staff in health promotion and education, epidemiology units, maternal and child health, oral health, injury, immunization, and communicable and noncommunicable disease and/or risk factors.

General Members automatically receive NACDD membership through their State and Territorial Health Departments, which pay membership dues on their behalf.

### Friends of NACDD

An individual who is not ready to join as a Member, but would like to receive NACDD communications and attend webinars and events that are open to the public. This simplified affiliation allows you to stay informed yet does not include full engagement with Member benefits. There is no fee for Friends of NACDD at this time.

### Associate Members

Public health professionals working in chronic disease in other industries and specialty areas. Associate Members are not State or Territorial Health Department employees.

Eligible Associate Membership categories include:

- Educational (ex: colleges, universities)
- Federal (ex: CDS, HHS)
- Local County (ex: local, municipal, or county health departments)
- Partner (ex: private industry, healthcare systems)
- Retired (ex: former employees of State or Territorial Health Departments)
- Student (ex: individuals enrolled full-time in public health or an allied field)
- Tribal (ex: Tribal Health Departments)

Associate Membership is provided at no cost thanks to a generous donation from the ProVention Health Foundation.

## Member Experience

NACDD's central challenge is to strengthen leadership and expertise for State and Territorial Health Departments as they advance chronic disease prevention and health promotion. We help our Members advocate for equitable opportunities for health and a modernized chronic disease surveillance system. Our three-pronged approach to providing support to our Members is how we:

**Inform** Members on public health industry and policy intelligence, evidence-based promising practices, and opportunities to advance their work and careers.

**Engage** Members in meaningful connections with their peers nationwide and participate in thought leadership and workforce innovation.

**Grow** Members' careers through professional development tools, resources, and learning opportunities, including our Chronic Disease Academy and monthly webinars designed for our Members' unique needs and interests.

NACDD continues to invest in our Members through training opportunities, management and leadership development, and improvements to the NACDD Member experience!



*Sarah Perkins with Member Services speaks about NACDD membership during a 2024 state orientation visit.*



*Members of NACDD leadership alongside current and former Board members.*

# Member Engagement

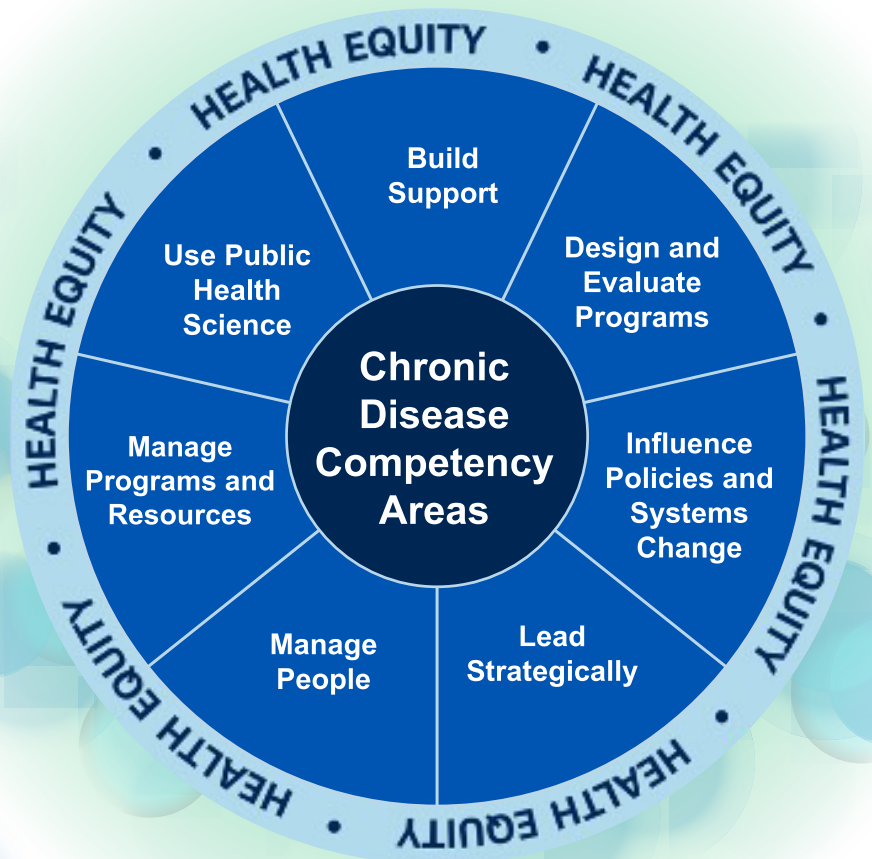
*From live, in-person, and virtual training workshops and roundtables to archived, on-demand courses and webinars, NACDD offers learning opportunities to meet your needs when and where you are.*

## Chronic Disease Competencies

*The NACDD Chronic Disease Competencies are a set of observable and measurable knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal attributes that build success for both individuals and teams working in chronic disease prevention and control.*

*All of our programming is built around these competencies and we offer a free assessment for individuals and teams along with complimentary resources and technical assistance for using assessment results.*

## Our Chronic Disease Competencies





**“The biggest benefit to participating on the Cancer Council is the relationships I’ve built with others”**

— Gail Sullivan, New Hampshire Colorectal Cancer Screening Program



### General Member Webinars

NACDD General Member Webinars are open to all Members and guests. The webinars feature timely topics presented by national subject matter experts as well as state speakers. Previous webinars are available for on-demand viewing on our website.

*Scheduled monthly on the second & fourth Thursday 3:00-4:00 pm ET*

### Chronic Disease Academy

The Chronic Disease Academy (CDA) is a program featuring dynamic plenary sessions, skill-building workshops, and presentations highlighting evidence-based and best practices in state chronic disease

prevention programs. CDA is designed as an opportunity for practitioners to connect with peers from across the U.S., and its territories, and to reinvigorate passion for work in the prevention and control of chronic disease.

The next Chronic Disease Academy will take place September 9-12, 2025 in-person in Atlanta, Georgia.

### Program Success Showcase

Our annual Program Success Showcase features projects and programs that demonstrate innovations in chronic disease prevention and control and health promotion impacting nearly every U.S. state and territory. The Showcase includes

keynote speakers and/or panel discussions with public health luminaries and thought leaders on emerging issues in the field.

### Councils

Primarily CDC-funded state programs in their focus areas, NACDD councils are open to any interested Member. The councils offer peer-to-peer connections among staff working in similar chronic disease areas.

**Arthritis Council:** Provides a forum for CDC-funded state arthritis programs, national organizations, and other partners to come together for peer-to-peer sharing and learning to increase state capacity to advance arthritis public health efforts.

*Meets every first Tuesday at 2:00 pm ET.*

**Cancer Council:** Connects all CDC-funded cancer program staff from state health departments, tribal territories, commonwealths, and academic institutions. Cancer staff identify emerging issues, brainstorm, and problem-solve around current issues, and share best practices for cancer prevention and control.

*Meets every third Thursday at 3:00 pm ET (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct)*



NACDD Members attend a Thought Leader Roundtable at the Association’s Decatur headquarters.



Members of the Pacific Chronic Disease Council at a recent gathering.

**Cardiovascular Health Council:** A network of all CDC-funded state and local partners and their contractors addressing cardiovascular disease prevention and management. The council supports training, identifies learning opportunities, and facilitates meaningful connections among state and local health departments.

*Meets every fourth Wednesday at 1:00 pm ET (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct)*

**Diabetes Council:** Includes Members from State Health Departments and the District of Columbia who work on diabetes initiatives. The council connects with Members for the purpose of implementing diabetes prevention and management strategies.

*Meets every first Thursday at 2:30 pm ET*

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***“My participation in the Diabetes Council has enhanced my professional development and my overall growth by providing networking opportunities, access to training, and development of leadership skills.”***



—Ed Clark, Florida Department of Health

**Pacific Chronic Disease Council:** Provides input, feedback, and perspective on the policy, leadership, and management of coordinated chronic disease prevention and health promotion to address chronic, non-communicable diseases and associated risk factors in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI).

*Meets every third Wednesday at 12:00 pm ChST (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec)*

# Member Engagement, *continued*

## Committees

NACDD's committees help inform the strategic direction of chronic disease prevention and control.

**Awards Committee:** Responsible for seeking nominations for NACDD Impact Award recipients, overseeing the selection process, and announcing the results. Any NACDD Member may join.

**Bylaws Committee:** Consists of the President-Elect and other Members as requested. This committee is responsible for the creating and maintenance of the

organization's bylaws. The committee is open by invitation from the Board of Directors.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee is comprised of the Board of Directors' five officers: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-President, and NACDD leadership as needed. Membership is open to Board members only.

**Finance Committee:** Chaired by the Board Treasurer and is responsible for the preparation of the annual budget,

reviewing association financial status, and making recommendations regarding finances to the Board of Directors. Any NACDD Member may join.

**Legislative and Policy Committee:** Monitors and reviews legislation relating to public health chronic disease programs and develops, reviews, and presents issues, policies, position papers, white papers, and resolutions for consideration by the Association. Membership is comprised of Board members.

If you are interested in joining a council or committee, contact Member Services at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) for more information and detail.



Participants at a recent Thought Leader Roundtable at NACDD headquarters.

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***“Our NACDD membership has been so valuable. I have found the tools around specific program areas as well as evidenced-based public health training to be most beneficial in my capacity. Being able to chat about best practice, updates across other states, and more, allows us to better serve Kansans in our capacity as the state’s public health agency.”***

—Derik Flerlage, RT, MHA, Kansas  
Department of Health & Environment



## GEAR Groups

Generate, Educate, Activate, Respond (GEAR) Groups are peer-to-peer, case-based, action learning opportunities for state chronic disease practitioners. They are offered periodically and designed to catalyze planning for longer-term state-level action. Participants can expand knowledge of pressing topics, develop leadership skills, and network with other public health professionals at State Health Departments.



## Engage Communities

Engage is our online network designed for Members to connect, share resources, and get answers to work-related questions. There are many program-specific communities Members can join. Members may access the Engage Community by visiting [chronicdisease.org](http://chronicdisease.org) and clicking on Member Portal in the upper right corner of the webpage. See pages 36–37 if you need help logging in.

# Member Engagement, *continued*

## Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are opportunities to participate and engage at a higher level, providing Members with a pathway between CDC and State Health Departments, making it easier for states to fulfill their requirements and achieve success.

## Board Service

Members are eligible for Board service if they are a General Member or Associate Member in good standing with the organization. Board nominations are opened in late spring and elections take place during the summer. If you are interested in board service, contact Member Services at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org).

## Online Learning Center

The NACDD Online Learning Center supports the professional development of public health professionals focusing on chronic disease prevention and control. Members can search or browse self-paced online courses about a variety of topics, including public health leadership development, workplace tools, advocacy, and more.



## Technical Support

NACDD offers direct technical assistance and connection with subject matter experts to address your department and community needs through a variety of

programming. Some of our most popular technical support services center on workforce development and organizational capacity development. Contact Member Services at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) for more information.

**To access the Online Learning Center and a more comprehensive list of services and benefits, visit [chronicdisease.org](http://chronicdisease.org). For more information on learning and professional development resources, contact the Center for Public Health Leadership at [CPHL@chronicdisease.org](mailto:CPHL@chronicdisease.org)**

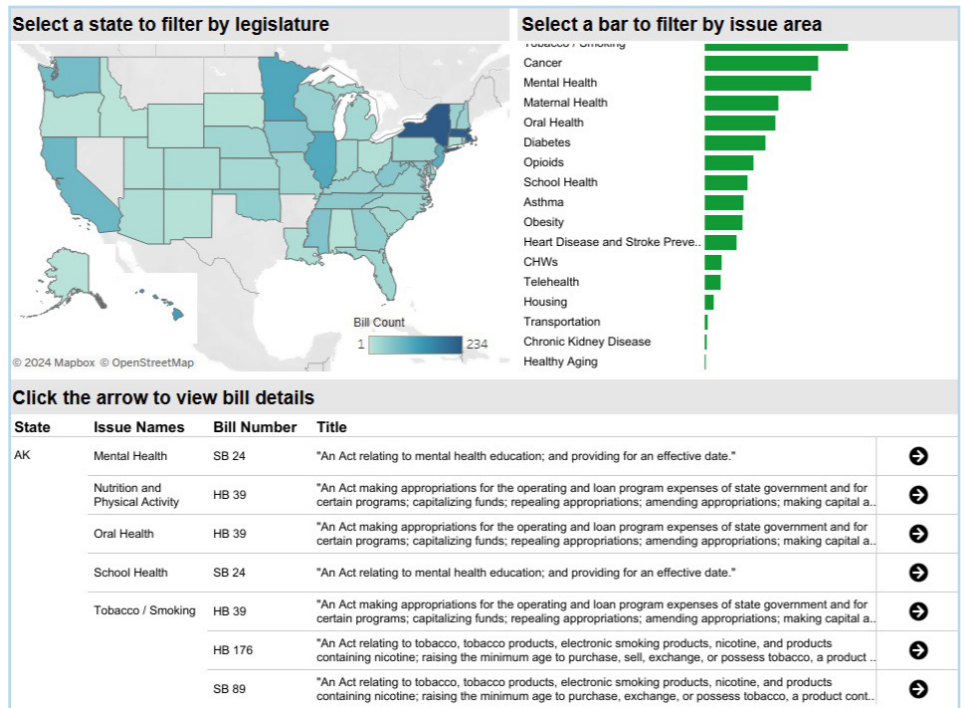
## BUILDING YOUR TOOLKIT:

Member Resources

# Policy & Advocacy

Policy is a critical tool for improving health outcomes at the population level, and this is an area in which Members frequently say they need assistance. See page 13 for details about the Center for Health Policy.

- **NACDD Legislative Tracker:** Allows users to quickly see a 50-state view of what is happening on the legislative front. The tracker displays bills from the current legislative session that can be sorted either by state or policy area. Tracking is also available for the District of Columbia.
- **Policy Tools & Resources:** NACDD's website has briefings, white papers, surveys, and other helpful information on chronic disease policy issues tailored to the state and federal level. Members can review NACDD's policy documents as well as the Associations' communications with policymakers. NACDD also offers annual appropriations fact sheets by disease category to inform federal policy.
- **NACDD's Policy Update:** A monthly call that provides current information on the status of NACDD advocacy efforts and current policy news from Washington, DC. Participants hear from NACDD's leadership and consultants at Cornerstone Government Affairs about efforts to educate and engage legislators and policymakers about improving the



NACDD Legislative Tracker screenshot. Visit website for current reading.

resources available for chronic disease prevention. Calls are held every Third Tuesday at 1:00 pm ET.

For more information and meeting details, contact Liz Ruth, Vice President, Center for Health Policy at [LRuth@chronicdisease.org](mailto:LRuth@chronicdisease.org).

***"Policy change can improve the health of the population. We want NACDD to be the leading voice for including all levels of prevention in the policy discourse."***

—Liz Ruth, Vice President, Center for Health Policy at NACDD

# Subject Matter Experts

NACDD leverages the deep experience of numerous subject matter experts to educate and assist Members and partners in all areas of our programmatic work. These experts serve in a consultancy capacity, working across the United States and its territories to provide vital leadership and expertise to our organization and membership.

Contact Marti Macchi, Chief Program Strategy Officer at [MMacchi@chronicdisease.org](mailto:MMacchi@chronicdisease.org), to learn more about how your program can engage with our experts.

For a complete list of our consultants and to learn more about their area of expertise, visit our website and choose About and select Consultants.



NACDD consultants at the 2024 Showcase in Atlanta.

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***“Each time I work with NACDD, it is like receiving a shot of adrenaline. You get to surround yourself with others who are passionate and knowledgeable about the work we do and this makes me want to strive harder for excellence.”***

***— Jack Miller, Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare***

# Newsletters and Resources

## NACDD Newsletter

**Impact Brief** is NACDD's official monthly newsletter. This newsletter highlights the most important, consolidated news for the Association, its programs, and partners.

Impact Brief's goal is to inform NACDD's Members about relevant opportunities for their work, become engaged with the Association, and grow in their career in chronic disease prevention and health promotion.

Share your news, career opportunities, funding announcements, and personal achievements for publication by emailing [Info@chronicdisease.org](mailto:Info@chronicdisease.org).

## Other Newsletters

**All In: The Disability Inclusion Network Newsletter:** This quarterly newsletter is published with a commitment to advancing the prevention of commercial tobacco use and cancer in people with disabilities, including U.S. Veterans.

**Health and Lifestyle Training (HALT):** This monthly newsletter from ProVention Health Foundation, promotes equitable access to lifesaving health education and promotion programs.

**Legislative and Policy News:** A weekly newsletter that provides updates on federal appropriations and other policy issues affecting NACDD Members.

**National Hypertension Control Roundtable Newsletter:** A quarterly newsletter to keep Members up-to-date with tools, resources, and other roundtable activities.

**Off the Cuff:** A weekly newsletter focused on cardiovascular health and the work of the Cardiovascular Health Council.

**Physical Activity and Nutrition:** A monthly newsletter and supplemental emails from the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities with information and resources on advancing food and nutrition security, improving access to safe physical activity, enhancing social connectedness, and upcoming learning opportunities.

**The Connector:** A bi-monthly newsletter that highlights collaborations with national, state, and local partners to advance diabetes prevention and management.

You may subscribe to any of these newsletters by visiting your Member Profile in the Member Portal and updating your email preferences.



## Publications Library

We manage an online resource library featuring webinars, training videos, public health lectures, and podcasts on all chronic disease topics. Visit our website and click on the Library from the menu.

## Social Media

We encourage all of our Members to follow NACDD on social media. You will find us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and coming soon to Instagram. Please also consider following NACDD CEO John Robitscher on LinkedIn to see what is top of mind for NACDD executive leadership. (See page 34 for our social links).

Visit [chronicdisease.org](https://www.chronicdisease.org) to stay informed about new publications, policy statements, podcasts, videos, and other tools and resources to support your professional development and career advancement.



# Working in Partnership

One of NACDD's greatest values to the public health community is its extensive network of partners.

Since its inception over 35 years ago, NACDD has convened and collaborated with health agencies at all levels of government, as well as academic institutions, national, and local nonprofits, and businesses across various sectors. Our ability to identify and connect nontraditional partners is a key reason NACDD remains a sought-after partner among government and nonprofit public health organizations as well as private industry.

NACDD serves as a vital bridge between state Chronic Disease Directors and federal chronic disease prevention and control efforts. Our strong relationships have enabled us to conduct groundbreaking work with software, media, research, and marketing firms, transforming outdated chronic disease interventions into relevant 21st-century tools for State Health Departments and their partners.

John Patton leads NACDD's partnership work and also leads NACDD's sister organization, the ProVention Health Foundation. Contact John to discuss new initiatives with public or private partners. He can be reached at [JPatton@chronicdisease.org](mailto:JPatton@chronicdisease.org)



**We spark innovation in public health.**

**That's our mission and our promise.**

Bring us your project, your dream, your vision, your goal —  
and we will be the catalyst to make it a reality.



[ProVentionHealth.org](http://ProVentionHealth.org)

## Impact Awards

NACDD's Impact Awards provide our Members and partners with an opportunity to be recognized for best practices in chronic disease prevention and health promotion, as well as contributions that go beyond public health. The Impact Awards are nominated by NACDD Members and selected by a committee of Members. This year's Awards Committee was led by Board Treasurer Teresa Aseret-Manygoats, and Board Members Barbara Wallace and Nancy Sutton.

"The award winners this year are truly inspirational individuals who have made tremendous contributions to chronic disease prevention and control, as well as the promotion of healthy lifestyles within their respective communities," Aseret-Manygoats said. "It's a powerful reminder of the dedication and impact across our field."

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Awarded to a current or former Chronic Disease Director of a state, tribal, or territorial health department whose career has contributed to reducing the burden of chronic disease in the United States.



**Jill Myers Geadelmann,**  
Bureau Chief of Chronic,  
Congenital & Inherited  
Conditions at the Iowa  
Department of Health and  
Human Services

Geadelmann has spearheaded chronic disease prevention and management initiatives across Iowa for the last 30 years. She began her work with the Iowa Department of Health in 1994. Prior to her work with the Bureau, she worked for the Family Planning Council of Iowa and as a long-term care and private duty nurse.

At the Iowa Department of Health, Geadelmann has been instrumental in expanding the Bureau's focus to include congenital and inherited conditions and consistently identifies new funding opportunities and program areas to broaden the impact on chronic disease in the state. She provides her staff continuous guidance and support, and has mentored new leaders, ensuring the continuity of public health leadership in Iowa.

Geadelmann has served in numerous advisory committees, boards, and work group roles during her years in public health, including leadership roles on NACDD's Board of Directors.

### Rising Stars Award

Awarded to an individual staff member in a state, tribal, or territorial chronic disease unit who is not a director and who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation to promote health.

**Elizabeth Berardi,**  
Cancer Programs  
Administrator at the  
Tennessee  
Department of Health



**Benvinda Santos,**  
Sustainability Manager  
for the Diabetes,  
Heart Disease and  
Stroke Program at  
the Rhode Island  
Department of Health



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***"The Impact Awards give our Members the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the incredible daily efforts and success of their peers. The awards celebrate not just the recipients but the collective efforts of our chronic disease prevention and management community."***

— John W. Robitscher, CEO, NACDD

### Mentor Award

Awarded to an outstanding chronic disease prevention and control professional who has guided, supported, and promoted the training and career development of other chronic disease prevention and control practitioners working in a state health department.



**Pamela Geis,**  
Diabetes Program  
Coordinator at the  
Wisconsin Department  
of Health Services

### Health Equity Champion Award

Awarded to an individual or to a chronic disease unit that has demonstrated progress in advancing health equity as a core value of their work, while also addressing the social and economic factors that contribute to preventable health disparities, or who have applied health equity principles to improve public health practice.

**Sara Thuma,**  
Manager of the  
Asthma Control  
Program at the  
Pennsylvania  
Department of Health



2024 Community Impact Award Team, Yap State Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

### Community Impact Award, Team

Awarded to a chronic disease unit that has made a significant impact or achieved significant influence in a community related to chronic disease prevention and control.

### Yap State Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Martina Reichhardt, Cancer Program Director; Dr. James Edilyong, Yap Memorial Hospital Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialist; Jennifer Palemar, Cancer Program Administrative Assistant; and Kassandra Lelman, Cancer Registrar

### Community Impact Award, Individual

Awarded to an individual who has made a significant impact or achieved significant influence in a community related to chronic disease prevention and control.



**Janna Simon,**  
Director of the  
Center for Policy &  
Partnership Initiatives  
at the Illinois Public  
Health Institute

### Joseph W. Cullen Excellence Award

The Joseph W. Cullen Award is presented to an individual outside the traditional public health field who has made outstanding contributions in the field of chronic disease.

**Dr. Laurence Sperling,**  
Former Executive  
Director of the  
Million Hearts  
Initiative, Founder  
and Director of  
The Heart Disease  
Prevention Center at  
Emory University as well  
as a Professor of Medicine and Professor  
of Global Health at Emory University



# Share Your Story

## Success Stories

NACDD hosts a database of more than 400 public health success stories from State Territorial Health Departments working in chronic disease prevention and control. We share these case studies with legislators, partners, and national advocates. Members are encouraged to submit via the What's Working in Chronic Disease Prevention and Control database under Success Stories on our website.

## Publicity for Your Work

Having exciting news to share with your fellow Members? Start a thread in the NACDD Engage Community. Get your story out there while connecting with other Members who may have a story to share, or who might learn from your experience.

## Join the Conversation on Social Media

Follow and chat with NACDD on our social media platforms:

- John Robitscher, CEO at NACDD (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnrobitscher>)
- LinkedIn ([linkedin.com/company/nacdd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nacdd))
- Facebook ([facebook.com/chronicdiseasedirectors](https://www.facebook.com/chronicdiseasedirectors))
- Instagram – coming soon!

## Write a Guest Blog Post

Do you have an interesting topic or area of expertise that you would like to share with our community? Share your idea at [info@chronicdisease.org](mailto:info@chronicdisease.org). Want to become a regular blogger? Email us at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) to get started.

## Tell Us Your Kudos

Send us your recent promotions, new certifications or degrees, or any other professional highlights for inclusion in our Impact Brief newsletter at [info@chronicdisease.org](mailto:info@chronicdisease.org). And don't forget to update your Member Profile in the Member Portal and Engage Community with your new accomplishments.



NACDD Consultant Leslie Best with Board Member Teresa Aseret-Manygoats at the 2024 Showcase.



CELEBRATING YOUR SUCCESS: Member Accomplishments

# NACDD Member Portal

The NACDD Member Portal is our hub where you can update your online Member Profile, manage your NACDD email preferences, and access resources like the Learning Center and Engage Community, NACDD's online Member forum.

## Member Checklist

Follow these initial steps to get connected and start maximizing your NACDD membership today!

Use the QR Code on this page to view our Quick Start Guide, which provides detailed instructions for each of the following steps.

**Step 1:** Use the QR Code on the next page to login to the NACDD Member Portal or Become a Member to Join Today

**Step 2:** Update your Member Profile

**Step 3:** Manage your NACDD email preferences, including newsletter subscriptions

**Step 4:** Join conversations in Engage, NACDD's online community forum

**Step 5:** Follow NACDD on social media

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nacdd/>
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/ChronicDiseaseDirectors](https://www.facebook.com/ChronicDiseaseDirectors)
- Instagram: Coming soon!

Sign in Join Now

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS**  
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

Donate Engage Join Now Learn My Profile Return to NACDD

**Welcome to NACDD's Member Portal!**  
Sign in or become a Member to access your Member profile, Engage Community, and the Online Learning Center.  
If you need assistance logging in, contact [Members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:Members@chronicdisease.org).

Username

Password

Sign In

[Forgot username?](#) | [Forgot password?](#)

Become a Member

**Engage Community**  
Engage is NACDD's online community forum is where you can connect directly with other NACDD Members and subject matter experts. In addition to the Open Forum, there are specialized communities focused on specific topics. Once logged in, select the "Engage" icon and join the conversation!

**Online Learning Center**  
The Online Learning is where you can access NACDD's on-demand courses focused on topics that build skills in the Chronic Disease Competencies. These on-demand courses are self-paced, interactive, and most take 45 minutes or less to complete. Select the "Learn" icon to access the course catalog and enroll in courses.

## How to Maximize the Engage Community

Your NACDD membership includes access to our Engage Community, an online forum where you can connect with other Members to expand your network while working together to fight chronic disease. Check out new communities focused on

specific areas of interest, including Cancer Prevention, Asthma Control, Diabetes Management, Tobacco Control, Health Policy, and more coming later this year.

To access the Engage Community, simply log into the Member Portal and select the Engage icon in the menu, or use the QR code on the next page.

**Contact Member Services at [members@chronicdisease.org](mailto:members@chronicdisease.org) for additional support or with any questions related to Member benefits.**

Sarah Perkins, Member Engagement Manager, and Laura Weikle, Member Support Manager, are here to serve you on all of your membership support needs.



PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS: Member Services Support



Scan for Member Portal



Scan for Quick Start Guide



Scan for Engage Community

**“An important step to maximize your NACDD membership is to make sure your Member Profile is up-to-date. Providing accurate contact information and updating your communication preferences ensures you will receive NACDD news, announcements, and opportunities that are most relevant to your professional and personal interests.”**  
— Sarah Perkins, Member Engagement Manager



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
**CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS**

Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

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