



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 20, 2015

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## **Health Department Chosen as One of First Sites for Key Health Initiative**

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department has been chosen as one of the first four sites in the country to participate in a new initiative *Bridging for Health: Improving Community Health Through Innovations in Financing*, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). RWJF is one of the country's leading non-profit organizations supporting research and programs throughout the nation which are working to build a Culture of Health

The two ACHD initiatives highlighted by the selection committee were its Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, a multi-sector community health improvement plan released earlier this year, and the Public Health Improvement Fund. The Fund was created by a number of local foundations committed to investing in Health Department infrastructure.

We are honored and excited to be chosen to work with the *Bridging for Health* initiative. We believe their technical assistance will be very beneficial as we continue building a high performing health department to meet our goal of improving the health of Allegheny County said ACHD Director, Dr. Karen Hacker.

The goal of *Bridging for Health* is to improve population health by rebalancing and aligning investments while fostering links among public health, health care and other sectors. The three main areas of focus will be:

1. Stewardship
2. Innovations in financing
3. Health equity

RWJF has named Georgia State University's Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) as a national coordinating center to support the *Bridging for Health* initiative aimed at helping regions, states and communities improve health and reduce disparities through innovations in collaboration and financing. Selected sites will receive technical assistance from the Foundation on financing and policy innovation. Other sites chosen were: The Bexar County Community Health Collaborative in San Antonio, TX, Spartanburg's Way to Wellville in Spartanburg, SC and Yamhill Community Care Organization in Yamhill County, OR. Each site will be provided with technical assistance, evaluation support and opportunities for peer learning. Resources for convening, core functions and/or special projects will also be made available. An additional six sites will be chosen, this year. Visit [www.ghpc.gsu.edu/bridging](http://www.ghpc.gsu.edu/bridging) for more information about the *Bridging in Health* initiative.

To learn more about the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, the Community Health Assessment and other ACHD initiatives supported by the Public Health Improvement Fund, visit <http://www.achd.net/pha/index.html>

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