



# Making Connections

*Regional Health Connector Program*

Updated: October 2022

# Overview

- RHC Vision, Mission, Purpose
- Program Structure and Current Efforts
- How to Connect and Support
- Hear from RHCs and Discussion



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# Opening Question

*Type in the chat your name, pronouns, organization and answer to the following.*

**What do you already know about the RHC program?**

**If you're unfamiliar, what are you hoping to learn today?**



# RHC Vision, Mission, & Purpose



**COLORADO**  
REGIONAL HEALTH CONNECTORS





## Our Vision

Connected systems will lead to healthier lives for all Coloradans.

## Our Mission

Regional Health Connectors improve health in Colorado by connecting the systems that keep us healthy – including primary care, public health, social services, and other community resources.



# Purpose of the RHC Program



## Goals

Better **coordination** across systems

Stronger and more **effective networks** to address SDoH

Stronger **social capital**

**Healthier population**, lower costs, happier patients and providers

## Strategies

**Involving** clinics in community health initiatives

★ **Connecting** clinics to community assets

**Guiding** the development of referral networks

**Educating** on best practices to impact SDoH

**Building & Deepening** partnerships and capacity

# Partnerships

*The work of the RHCs would not be possible without the partnership and collaboration of the **RHC host organizations** across the state. We'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation to these local organizations who support the mission and vision of the RHC Program.*



# Partnerships



Program Office  
Technical Support/Coaching  
Evaluation  
Sustainability

Fiscal Agent  
Evaluation  
Sustainability  
Advocacy

Sustainability  
Advocacy



# Program Structure & Current Efforts

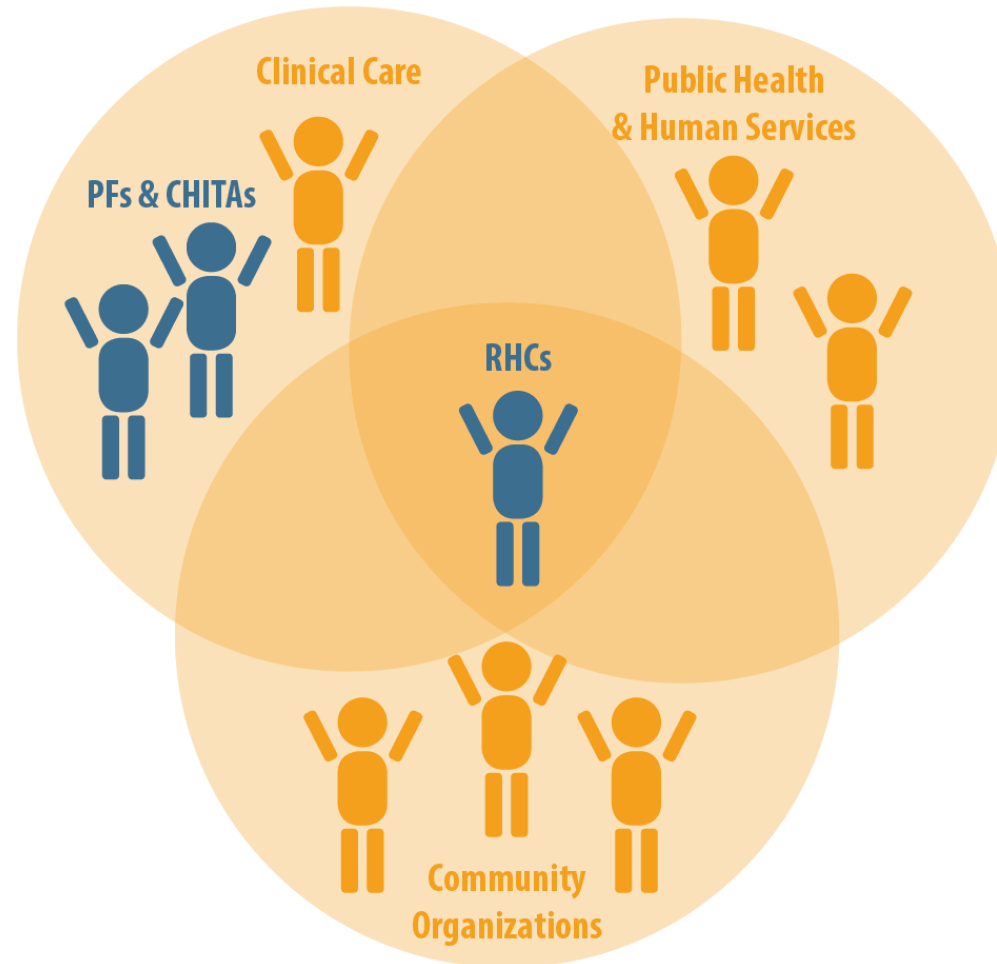


**COLORADO**  
REGIONAL HEALTH CONNECTORS

# RHCs Work Across Systems

**PF** – Practice Facilitator

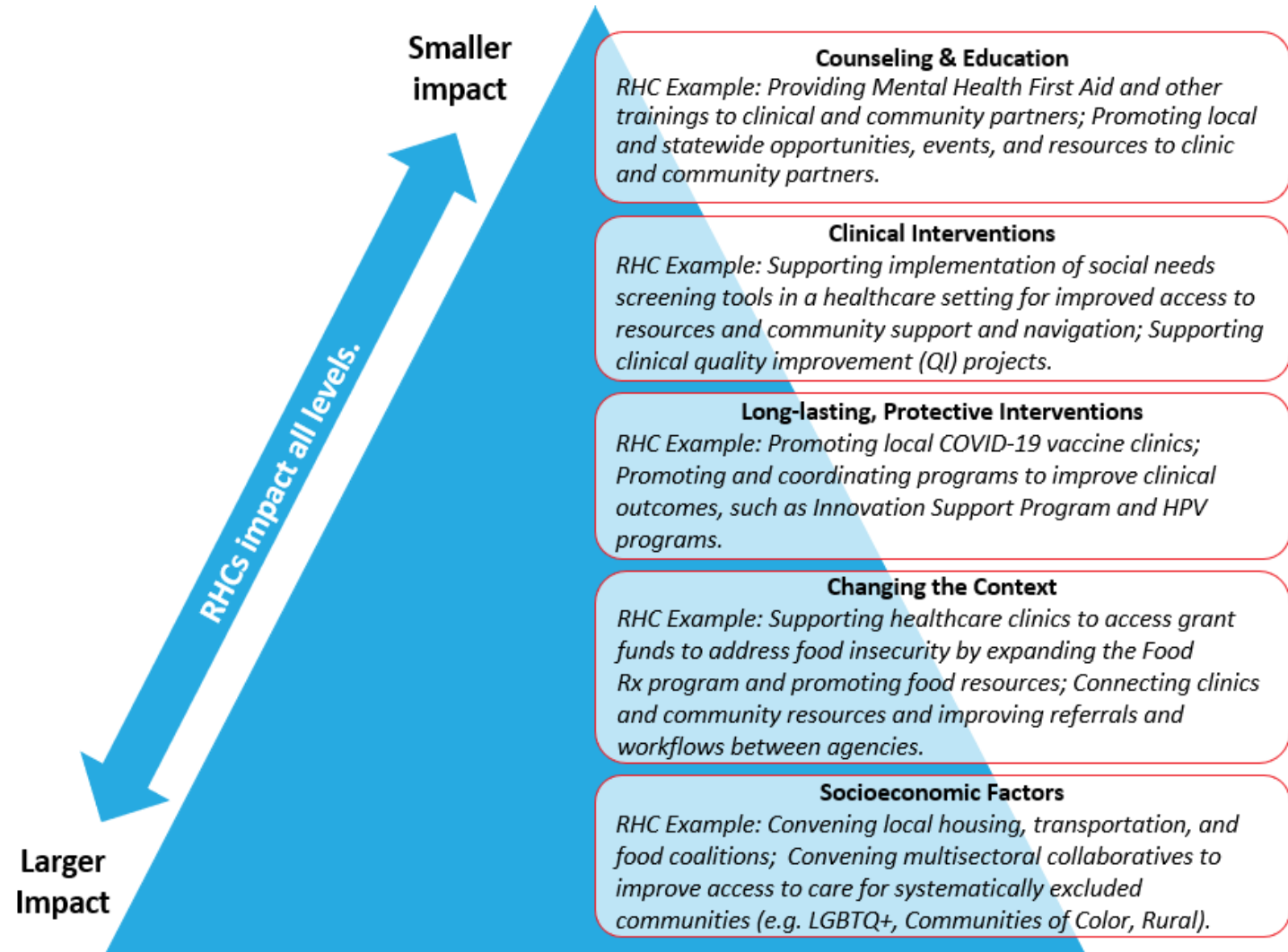
**CHITA** – Clinical Health  
Information Technology  
Advisor



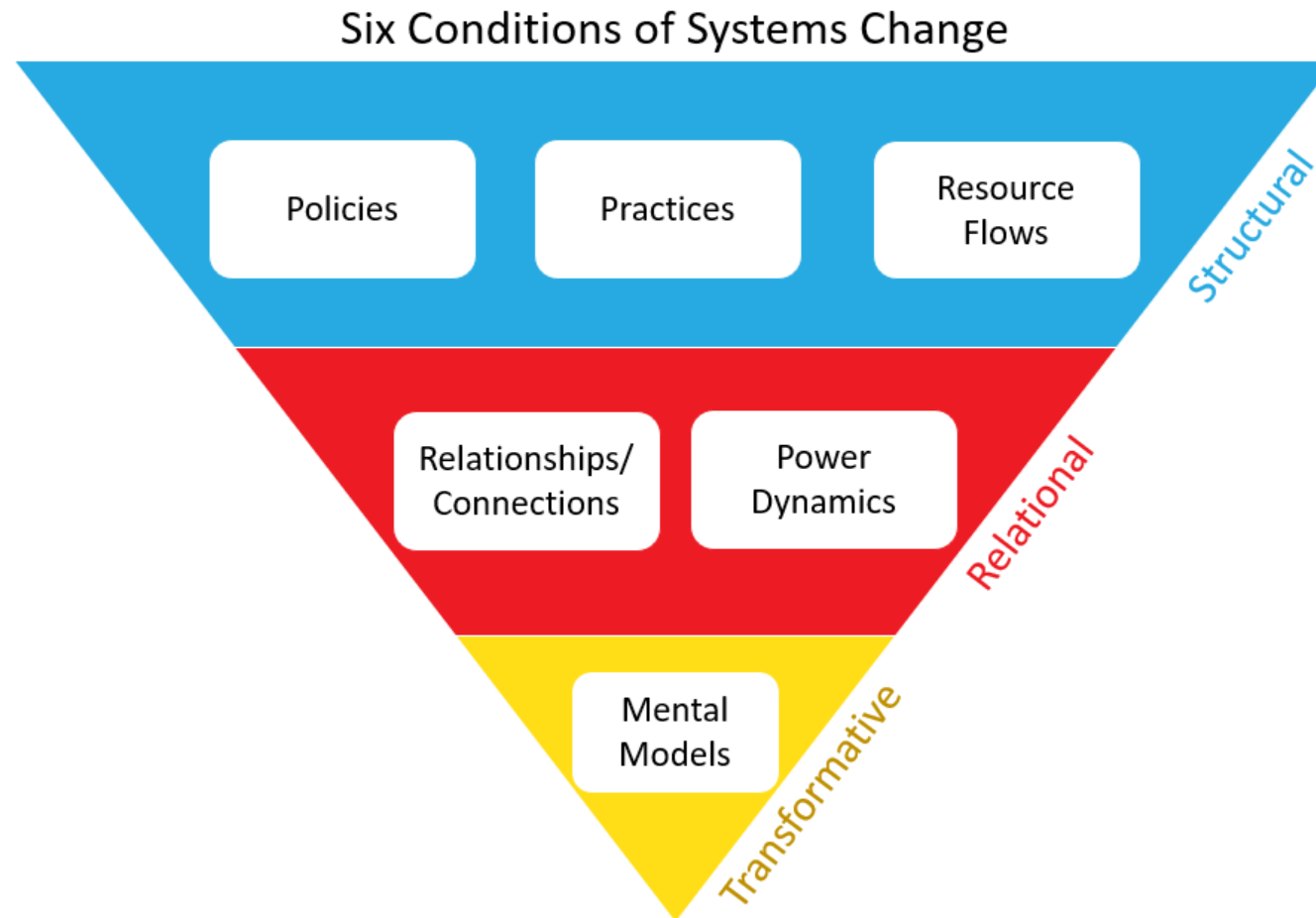


# What does working across health systems mean?

RHCs work at all levels of the *Health Impact Pyramid*<sup>1</sup> with a focus on improving health equity and leveraging community assets.

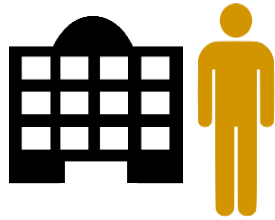


# RHCs create and support conditions of systems change within local communities.

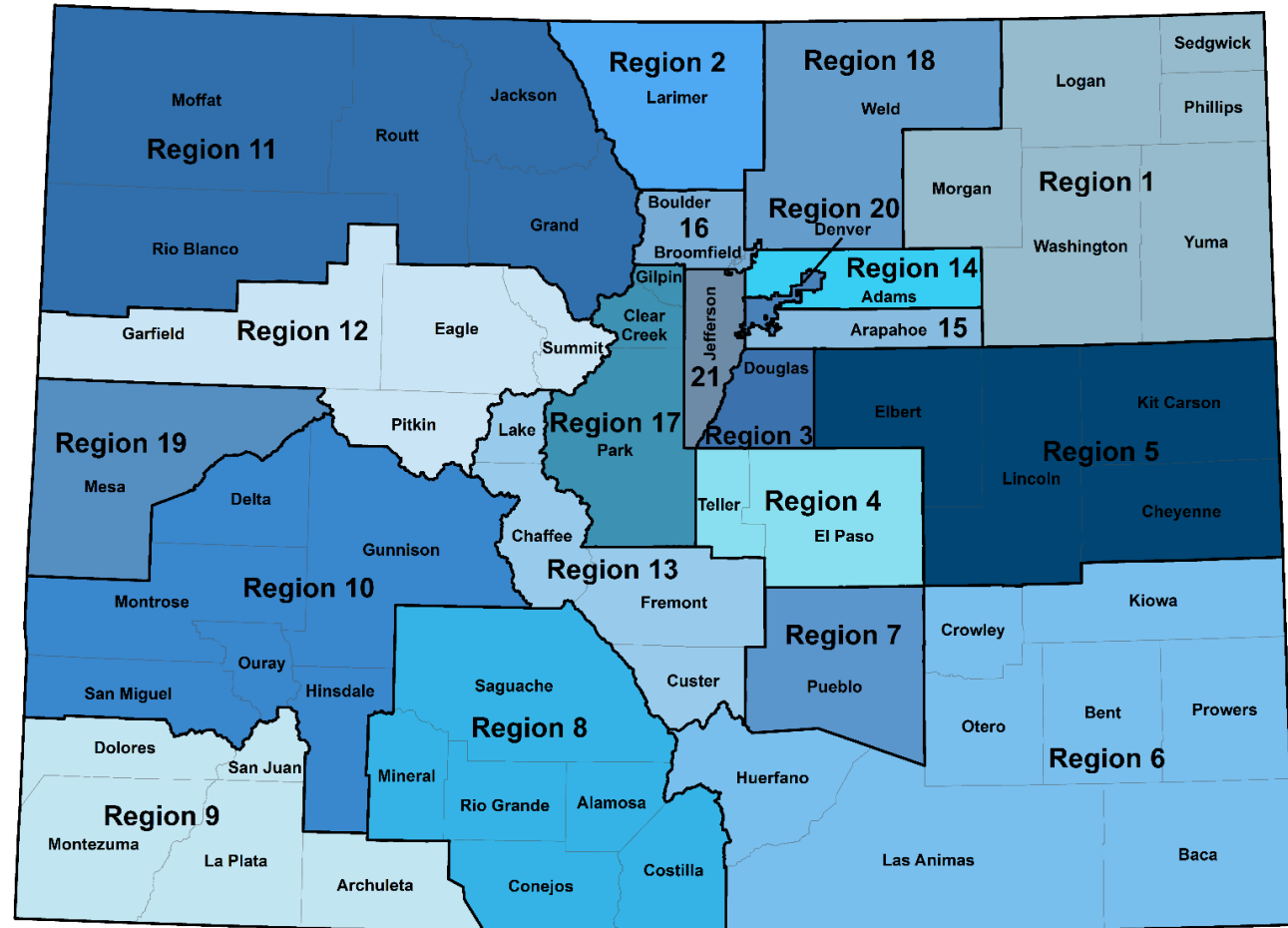




# RHCs work in 21 Regions across Colorado



- RHCs are embedded in the community & employed by a local organization.
- Examples of local host organizations include LPHAs, AHECs, health alliances, & health-based CBOs/non-profits.



# Current Efforts

## Innovation Support Practice (ISP)

With this funding, RHCs are:

- **Fostering partnerships, collaboration, and connection** between medical clinics/practices, public health organizations, and community services and resources
- **Addressing social needs** and priorities in the communities where they live, work, and play

## House Bill 1302 (

With this funding, RHCs:

- ☒ **Completed an assessment** of their region's strengths and gaps of evidence-based behavioral health treatment, services, and resources
- ☒ **Created an action plan** to leverage strengths and address identified needs based on the assessment
- ☐ **Will implement and track** the action plan, including evaluation and communication of successes and RHC impact

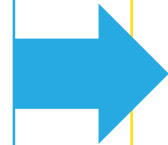


# Recent Efforts: BHRA Projects

## **Regional Assessments**

*October – November '21*

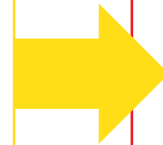
Each RHC conducted a local needs assessment of their Region by analyzing national, state, and local data to identify priority gaps in behavioral and mental health services.



## **Action Plan**

*December – February '22*

Based on assessments, the RHCs proposed projects intended to address priority gaps and improve health equity using local knowledge, services, and assets.



## **Implementation!**

*February – June '22*

RHCs implemented their BHRA projects, supported by their host organizations and local partners.



# Outcomes of BHRA Projects

- Implementation was 9 months
- Over **90% of projects are continuing** on after the BHRA funding ended
- 2 out of 3 projects sought outside funding
  - Over **half were awarded funding**
- Total amount of funding awarded or catalyzed by BHRA projects = **\$854,360!**
- Almost all RHCs recommendation to funders, partners, and others is to *increase funding and capacity for behavioral and mental health resources and projects in their region*


# Other Recent Efforts

Shorter-term projects based on emergent needs and opportunities:

- **mAb Project** – support outreach and communication efforts for the implementation and effectiveness of Monoclonal Antibodies (mAb) treatment
- **Jail Based Behavioral Health Services** - supported county jails to address the needs of individuals with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders
- **OBH Homeless Support during COVID-19** - supported the work in their communities to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness during the COVID19 pandemic







“This what I love about the RHC program. There’s no, ‘This is what you must do and how you must do it.’ We’re able to respond to needs.”

— Regional Health Connector, Susan Garrett, Region 4 (El Paso and Teller counties)

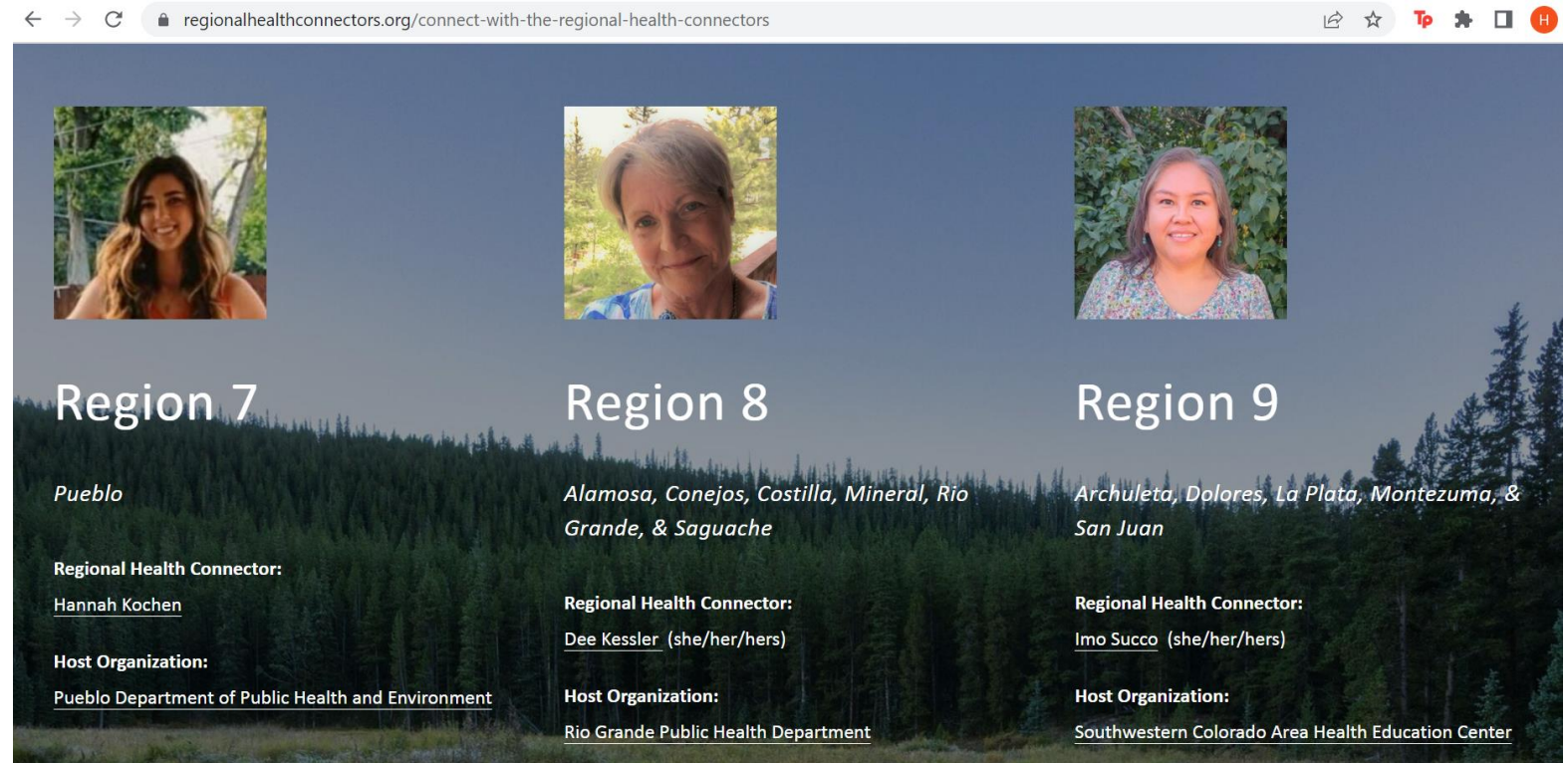
# How to Connect & Support






# Ways to Connect

“There is no wrong email, no wrong question to send to an RHC.”

-Kim McDevitt, Region 20  
(Denver)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [regionalhealthconnectors.org/connect-with-the-regional-health-connectors](https://regionalhealthconnectors.org/connect-with-the-regional-health-connectors). The page displays three columns for different regions, each with a photo of the Regional Health Connector, the region name, a list of counties, the connector's name, and the host organization.

| Region 7                                                                                        | Region 8                                                                            | Region 9                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               |  |              |
| <b>Region 7</b>                                                                                 | <b>Region 8</b>                                                                     | <b>Region 9</b>                                                                                 |
| <i>Pueblo</i>                                                                                   | <i>Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, &amp; Saguache</i>              | <i>Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, &amp; San Juan</i>                                  |
| <b>Regional Health Connector:</b><br><a href="#">Hannah Kochen</a>                              | <b>Regional Health Connector:</b><br><a href="#">Dee Kessler</a> (she/her/hers)     | <b>Regional Health Connector:</b><br><a href="#">Imo Succo</a> (she/her/hers)                   |
| <b>Host Organization:</b><br><a href="#">Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment</a> | <b>Host Organization:</b><br><a href="#">Rio Grande Public Health Department</a>    | <b>Host Organization:</b><br><a href="#">Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center</a> |

Connect with specific RHCs: [www.regionalhealthconnectors.org](https://www.regionalhealthconnectors.org)



# Ways to Partner

To connect with all RHCs or a broader group:



**RHC Weekly  
Resource Email**



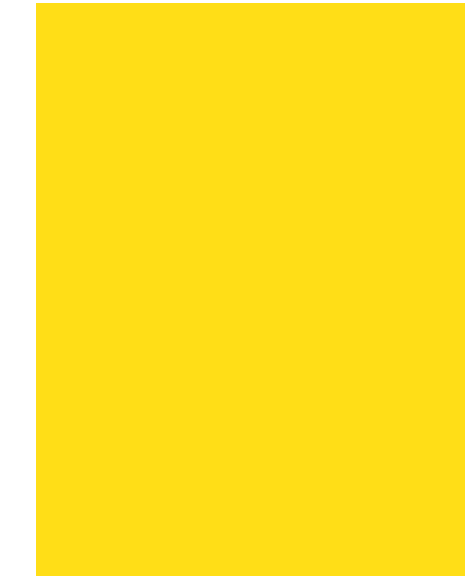
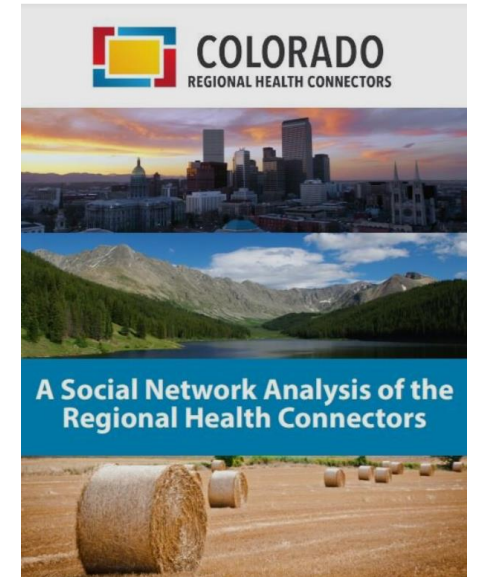
**RHC Monthly  
Learning Calls**



**Get in Touch with  
Program Staff**

# Ways to Support

1. Explore the RHC website and stay in touch.
2. Partner with us. Contact RHC program staff to discuss community engagement needs & contracts/funding
3. Spread the word!
  1. Advocate for the value of RHCs with your organization and partnerships
  2. Connect others with RHCs





# Hear from the Regional Health Connectors

“The work of an RHC is  
never-ending.”

-Dee Kessler, Region 8 (Alamosa,  
Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande,  
& Saguache)



# Closing Questions

*In a personal note to yourself or in the chat*

**What's your next step to further connect with the RHCs or RHC Program?**

*In the chat or unmute to answer*

**What have we not covered that's important to you?**





Thank you!  
Questions?

Contacts: [ggrant@trailhead.institute](mailto:ggrant@trailhead.institute) or [hgroves@trailhead.institute](mailto:hgroves@trailhead.institute)