National Health Council
1730 M Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036-4561 ▪ 202-785-3910 ▪ www.nationalhealthcouncil.org ▪ info@nhcouncil.org

Member Benefits for Voluntary Health Agencies (VHA)

The National Health Council (NHC) champions the needs of people living with chronic diseases and disabilities so they can live longer and better lives. We work to improve the health of all people, to increase support for health research, and to strengthen the community of patient advocacy organizations.

Our unique membership and governance structure brings together the entire health community to solve systemic health issues. Our core members are the nation's leading patient advocacy organizations (also known as voluntary health agencies or VHAs) which control our governance. Membership also includes professional and membership associations, nonprofit organizations with an interest in health, and major pharmaceutical, health insurance, medical device, and biotechnology companies. Working together, we get things done!

Benefits

Mission Delivery – Leverage your resources and improve your ability to demonstrate real impact to your constituents. The NHC provides the means to secure tangible benefits for people across all diseases and disabilities. And we offer programs to strengthen your organization's ability to achieve its mission.

Policy Development – Join with us – the recognized leader on systemic health issues affecting people with chronic conditions and their family caregivers – to develop innovative solutions to our nation's complex health policy issues. Our decision-making process is evidence-based, consensus-driven, and informed by the unique insights of our individual member organizations.

Advocacy – Speak with a united voice to champion patient access to better care. Be a catalyst for federal health research funding, medical innovation, and effective and affordable health coverage for all people. The NHC coordinates advocacy campaigns on these and other issues and works directly with policymakers in Congress and the Executive branch to engage patients and patient organizations in the legislative, regulatory, and research processes.

Visibility – Raise your organization's profile through listings in the web-based NHC Membership Directory, Resource Directory, and Giving Guide, as well as our print directory, *Health Groups in Washington*. Reach a wider audience through participation in the NHC/WebMD blog, *A Different Normal*.

Alliance Building – Network with member VHAs to learn best practices and strengthen the patient advocacy community. Partner with other member organizations and businesses to promote patient-focused care.

Credibility – Build a stronger organization to serve your constituents most effectively and enjoy continued public support from donors through adherence to the NHC Standards of Excellence Certification Program® with its requirements for transparency, accountability, and ethical practice.

Key Member Services

Voluntary Health Leadership Conference – This annual gathering in February provides an unparalleled opportunity for VHA CEOs and their senior volunteers to come together in a retreat setting, where they meet informally, share information, identify priorities for the VHA community, and learn from one another. Top-notch speakers on organizational management, cutting-edge health issues, and the advancement of medical research are also featured.

Voluntary Health Agency Committee – Made up of the CEOs of member patient advocacy organizations, the committee meets quarterly to discuss common issues of concern, network with peers, and provide input and advice to the NHC Board of Directors on policy and program priorities.

Government Relations Affinity Group (GRAG) – This group, made up of the senior government relations staff in member VHAs, helps set the NHC policy agenda and promotes the exchange of ideas and sharing of common solutions among members. GRAG meets monthly to work on policy issues and convenes an annual Washington Representatives Retreat in December to focus on important strategic, operational, and policy development initiatives. A Grassroots Team also meets regularly to share best practices in advocacy.

Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Affinity Group – This group also provides important opportunities for information sharing and problem solving among member VHAs. It includes the CFOs of the organizations that belong to the National Human Services Assembly as well. The CFOs have two full-day meetings each year, with agendas of their own making featuring outside experts on emerging tax and regulatory issues, government oversight, compensation and benefits, and other pertinent topics.

Senior Staff Affinity Groups – Special groups have been established to provide a forum for various VHA staff at the senior level to share best practices and consider emerging issues in their respective fields. Chief development officers, senior communications staff, senior legal staff, and chief scientific/medical officers and research directors come together at various times each year for face-to-face meetings and webinars.

Benchmarking Reports – The NHC regularly produces benchmarking reports that allow member VHAs to compare their operations with those of their peers, identify strategic directions, and learn about best practices. Members have found the NHC's annual reports on VHA revenue sources and staff compensation and benefits particularly valuable.

To learn more about the National Health Council's policy and program initiatives, organizational development activities, and criteria for membership, visit www.nationalhealthcouncil.org or contact Susan H. Lau, Vice President, Member Services, at slau@nhcouncil.org.