

COMMUNITY NETWORKS PROGRAM (CNP) CENTERS

Overview

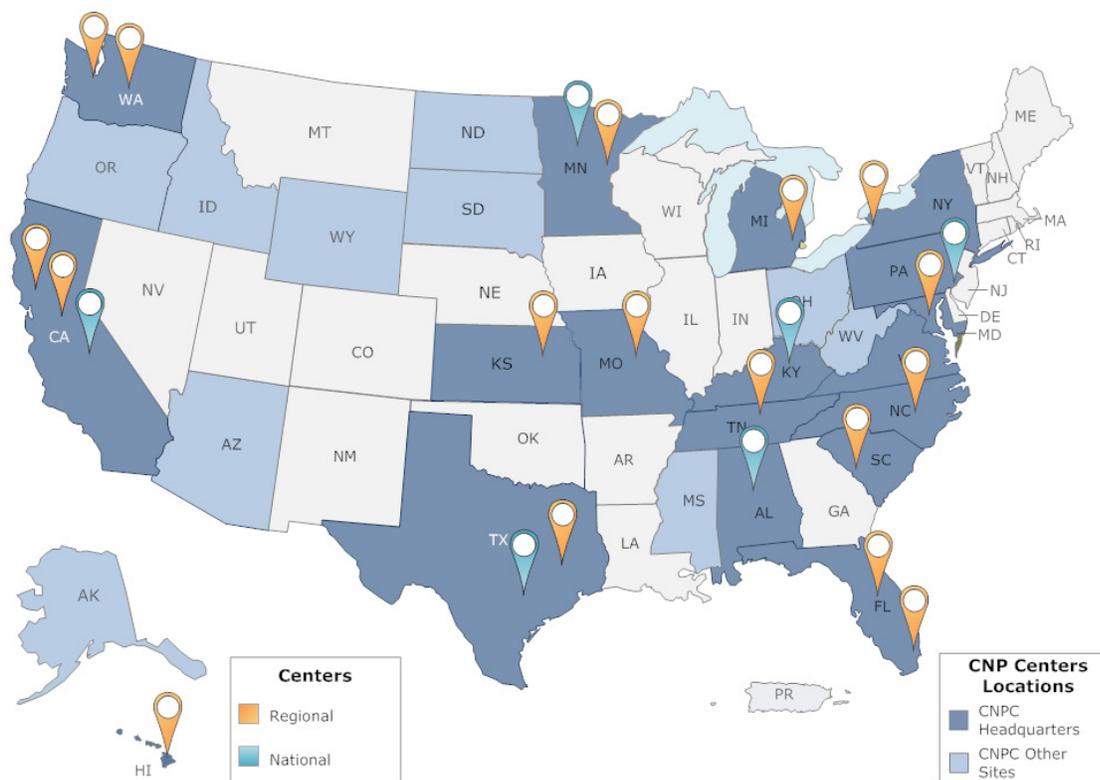
Building on the successes of the previous Community Networks Program, 23 NCI-supported CNP Centers launched in 2010 with the aim of using research, community outreach, and training to:

- Increase knowledge of, access to, and use of beneficial biomedical/behavioral procedures in cancer health disparities.
- Develop and perform evidence-based cancer health disparities intervention research.
- Train qualified cancer health disparities researchers in community based participatory research and promote their career development.

A hallmark of CNP Centers is the community involvement in all phases of the Centers' research.

Locations

Built as a partnership between an academic institution and various community organizations, the CNP Center is physically headquartered at the academic institution's site. This Headquarters site coordinates the work of affiliated research, community outreach and training sites.



For a detailed listing of all CRCHD's CNP Centers and the Centers' principal investigators and research objectives, visit: <http://crchd.cancer.gov/research/cnpc/project-listing.html>.



HISTORY

CNP Centers Grow From CNP

CNP Centers are an expansion of the Community Networks Program, which sought to improve disparity communities' access to and utilization of beneficial cancer interventions and treatments. CNP grantees helped ensure that communities and populations experiencing a disproportionate share of the cancer burden had the resources to address cancer disparities by partnering with those communities in education, research and training activities. CNP Centers continue this mission, working at a larger regional- and national-scale. By working in partnership with and through these communities, CNP Centers are able to continue addressing their cancer prevention and control needs, engaging diverse stakeholders (such as community members, health care delivery teams, decision makers), and combining research with actions aimed at improving health outcomes and reducing specific cancer health disparities.

ACTIVITIES

CNP Centers undertake three major activities: outreach, research and training.

Outreach

CNP Centers participate in community outreach activities in creative ways, which reflect the nature of their diverse community partners. The aim of these activities is to:

- Identify the community's needs and resources.
- Develop (in partnership with the communities involved) appropriately-tailored and culturally-sensitive educational materials/activities.
- Enhance the development and delivery of health promotion and educational activities.
- Revise procedures to assess the impact of the outreach activities.
- Implement plans to improve health literacy and patient-provider communication.
- Produce an outline of strategies to monitor the impact of any educational materials and efforts on the targeted communities.

These outreach activities are conducted mainly by trained Community Health Educators (CHEs), who have experience in communications, comprehensive cancer control, training, program planning, and evaluation.

Research

CNP Centers perform two research projects, both of which employ Community-Based Participatory Research as their methodology.

- *A Full Research Project*, based on a needs assessment or pilot study, to increase the use of biomedical or behavioral procedures to reduce cancer load.
- *A Pilot Educational Research Project*, where a new/early stage investigator is mentored by a more established researcher. This project focuses on promoting the role of racial/ethnic and/or underserved population in research—particularly related to clinical trials and bio-banking.

Both projects are developed in collaboration with the CNP Centers' community partners. This ensures that the project's outcomes will be relevant and useful to the community.

Training

CNP Centers engage in training primarily through the pilot educational research project. All CNP Centers also commit to mentoring postdoctoral, new, and early-stage investigators. These mentorships help build a critical mass of scientists focused on health disparities research who have both in-depth scientific expertise and skills in CBPR.



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