



2022 Award Winner Webinar: Innovative Strategies & Partnerships to Improve Asthma Outcomes Through a Comprehensive Approach





Question & Answer Session on AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org Discussion Forum

Please join us in the [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org Discussion Forum](#) for a
live online Q&A Session.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EDT

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Learning Objectives

Winners will share how they—

- Expanded the reach, effectiveness and sustainability of comprehensive asthma control services in Utah.
- Developed partnerships and a screening protocol to address high-risk clients' social, mental, physical and emotional needs to help control their asthma.
- Established a home-visiting program shown to improve asthma outcomes, including a 75 percent reduction in asthma-related emergency department visits.
- Worked with payers to seek sustainable financing for the Utah Asthma Home Visiting Program, which included conducting a return-on-investment (ROI) analysis that secured additional funding to expand the program to Medicaid members in rural fee-for-service areas.

Featured Speakers



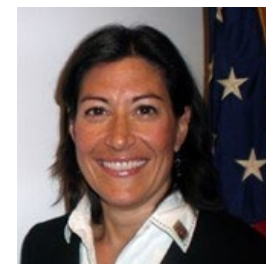
Nichole Shepard,
M.P.H., EP-C, Asthma
& Healthy Aging
Program Manager,
Utah Department of
Health



Brian Roach, Assistant
Director, Division of
Medicaid and Health
Financing, Utah
Department of Health



Andrea M. Jensen,
CHES®, AE-C, Asthma
Program Coordinator, Utah
County Health Department



Tracey Mitchell, RRT,
AE-C, U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA)



Polling Question 1

What type of organization do you represent?

1. Government agency
2. Health care provider
3. Health plan
4. Community-based program
5. Other



Environment Plays a Critical Role in Asthma Control

- Federal asthma guidelines recognize environmental trigger reduction as a critical component of comprehensive asthma care.*
- The evidence base demonstrates that in-home environmental interventions are effective at improving asthma control in children and adolescents.†

EPA is a federal lead for the integration of environmental risk reduction into standards of care.

EFFECTIVE IN-HOME ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS

Home-Based

- Includes at least one home visit by trained personnel to improve the home environment
- Examples: community health workers, clinicians, health care providers

Multi-Component

- Includes at least two components, including at least one environmental component
- Activities may include asthma-related education, self-management training, environmental assessment and remediation, social services, coordinated care

Multi-Trigger

- Targets two or more potential asthma triggers, including mice, cockroaches, dust mites, excess moisture and mold, household pets, tobacco smoke

* NHLBI. *Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma* (EPR-3). 2007. <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/guidelines-for-diagnosis-management-of-asthma>

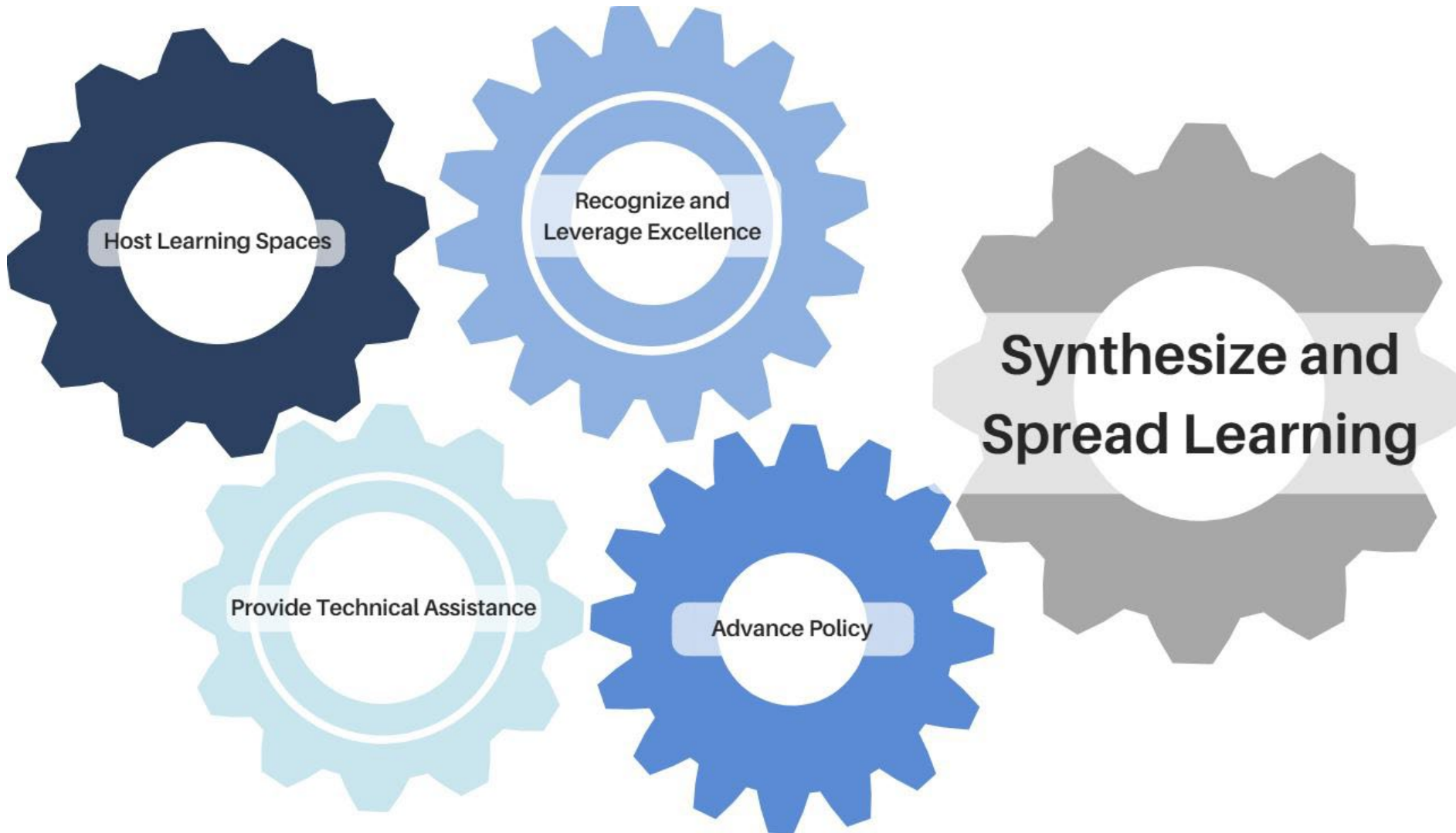
† CDC. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services*. 2005. <https://www.thecommunityguide.org>

From the Asthma Community Network's Financing Microsite





Supporting In-Home Interventions to Bring Asthma Under Control

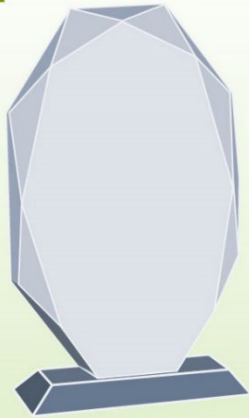


The System for Delivering High-Quality Asthma Care



About the Award

National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management



**NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
LEADERSHIP AWARD
IN ASTHMA
MANAGEMENT**

Nation's highest honor for exceptional asthma management programs

- **Goal:** The award program showcases and spreads best practices in comprehensive asthma care and management.
- **Eligibility:** Applicants must follow national guidelines (National Institutes of Health) and address published criteria for achieving improved health outcomes and program sustainability, especially for environmental justice communities.
- **Review:** Applications undergo a two-tiered review process, which includes reviewers from other federal agencies and national nongovernmental organizations.

About the Award

National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management

The application focuses on three areas:

1. Comprehensive Asthma Management
 - a. Management and Operations
 - b. Integrated Health Care Services
 - c. **Tailored Environmental Services**

2. Getting Results: Evaluation

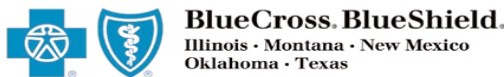
3. Sustainability





Award Winners Hall of Fame

www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/awards/winners



L.A. Cares About Asthma™





In Their Own Words

National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management



“Asthma is one of the best opportunities to have a real and true successful outcome in terms of repayment and actual change in policy and impact to communities under the Pay for Success model.”
Ruth Ann Norton, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, 2015 Award Winner

“Winning the award has opened doors for us that were previously closed and moved our program much further along in achieving sustainability.”
Kathleen Bowden, Children's Hospital of Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University, You Can Control Asthma Now (UCAN) Program, 2017 Award Winner

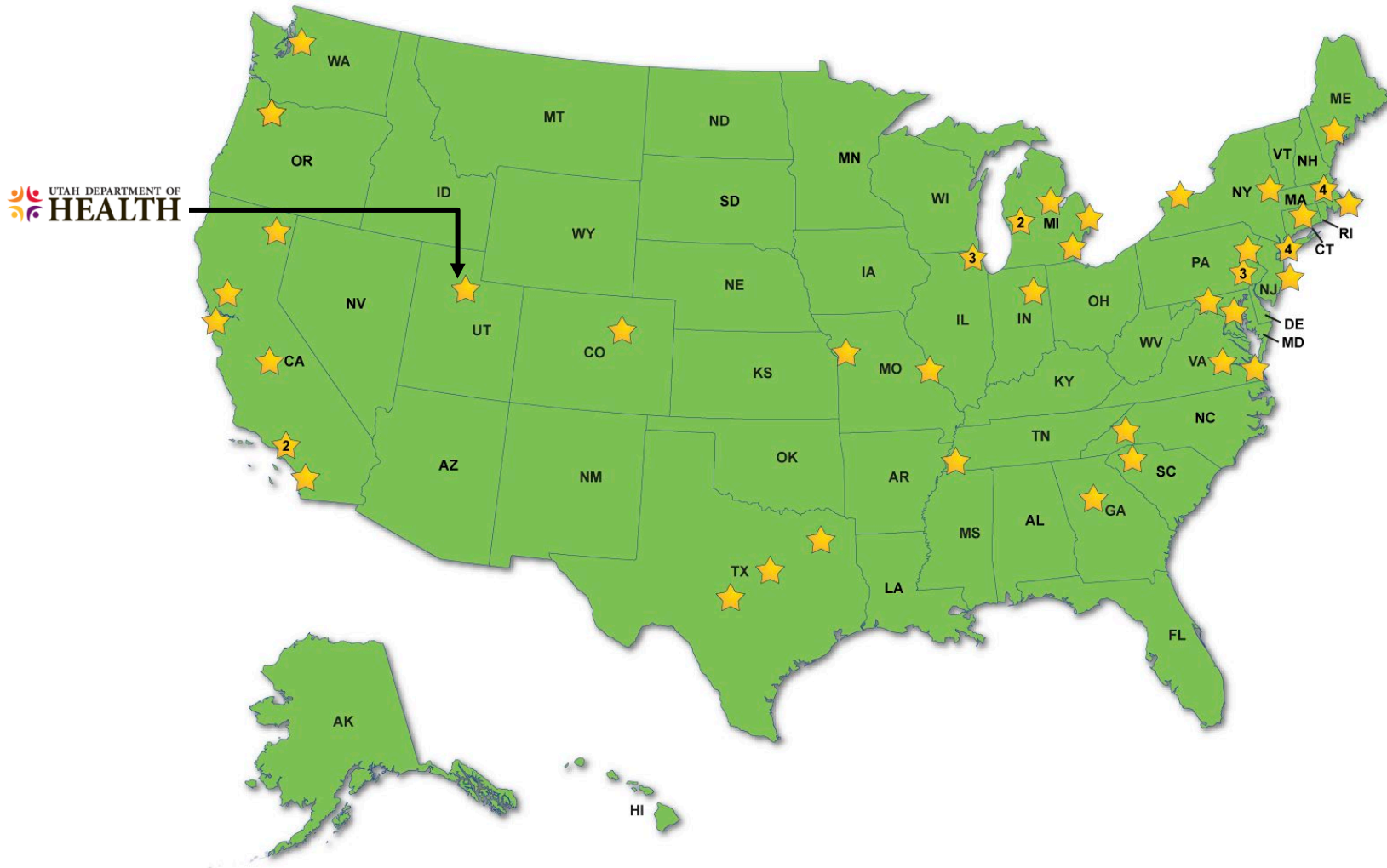
“Receiving the award reinforces our team's efforts to improve the lives of Medicaid children with asthma in Georgia.”
Dean Greeson, Peach State Health Plan, 2014 Award Winner





Awards Hall of Fame

Since 2005, 51 asthma programs been inducted into the Awards Hall of Fame.



Utah Asthma Program (UAP)

Formed in 2001 with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Asthma Control Program.

Mission—Make sustainable connections to improve the lives of those with asthma based on the following:

- Enhance & develop partnerships
- Conduct surveillance & evaluation
- Promote the use of best practices
- Share resources & facilitate open communication

Overview

- Utah Asthma Home Visiting Program
- Partnerships
- Sustainable financing



Utah Asthma Home Visiting Program (UAHVP)

Program History



Regional Approach
One contract serving
3 local health districts

Visit Format



Visit 1 - Asthma Education

↓ 2-3 weeks



Visit 2 - Environmental Assessment

↓ 4-6 weeks



Visit 3 - Discuss Progress & Goals

↓ 6 months



6-Month Follow-Up Call

↓ 6 months



12-Month Follow-Up Call

Target Population

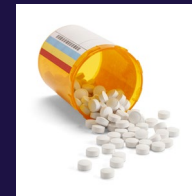
All Ages

Persistent,
Uncontrolled
Asthma

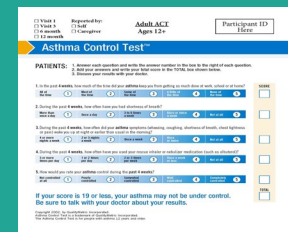
Emergency
Department (ED) Visit
or Hospitalization



Course of Oral
Steroids



Asthma Control Test
Score of 19 or Less

A screenshot of the Asthma Control Test form. The form is titled "Asthma Control Test" and includes a header with "Participant ID" and "Age 12+". The form contains several questions with radio button options. The questions are: 1. In the last 4 weeks, how much of the time did you have asthma symptoms that were worse than usual? 2. During the last 4 weeks, how often have you had asthma symptoms? 3. During the last 4 weeks, how often have you had asthma symptoms that were worse than usual? 4. During the last 4 weeks, how often have you had asthma symptoms that were worse than usual? 5. How much have you been able to do during the last 4 weeks? The form also includes a section for "PATIENTS" and a footer with a disclaimer.



Visit 1

Learn about asthma symptoms, triggers, medications, and inhaler technique.



Visit 2

Walk through your home to identify asthma triggers, then set goals to reduce these triggers.



Visit 3

Discuss progress on controlling your asthma and reducing triggers.



Make Connections

No doctor?



No insurance?



Social Determinants of Health Screening



Food



Transportation



**Medication
Cost Assistance**



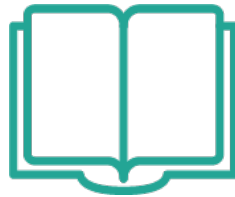
**Work
Resources**



**Mental Health
Services**



**Substance Abuse
Services**



**Education
Resources**



Utilities



Housing



**Domestic Violence
Support**

Referral to Community Resources

way to quit  **.org**



UTAH
FOOD
BANK



Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

Advocate • Collaborate • Educate



Environmental Services

- Asthma trigger education & in-home assessment
- Referral to home remediation services as needed



Community-Based Organizations



Local Housing Authorities

Current Status



- 535 enrolled
- 456 have completed the program
- 290 have completed 12-month follow-up

Program Outcomes

↓ Reduces Unwanted and Costly Events*
12 Months After Completing the Program



80% decline in average missed work days.



51% decline in average missed school days.



41% reduction in average unplanned doctor visits.



51% reduction in episodes requiring an oral systemic corticosteroid.



75% reduction in asthma-related ED visits.



87% reduction in asthma-related hospitalizations.

*Self-report data collected at visit 1 and 12 months after visit 3

Partnerships

Asthma Task Force

Mission—Utah communities working together to improve the quality of life for people with asthma.



**Healthcare
Systems**



**Housing
Organizations**



**Government
Organizations**



**Community-
Based
Organizations**

Local Health Departments (LHDs)



Words used by clients to
describe home visitors:

Helpful

Kind

Knowledgeable

Genuine

Caring

**100% of
clients
agreed or
strongly
agreed:**

- The home-visiting program exceeded my expectations.
- I have a good relationship with the home visitor.
- The program will improve my quality of life.
- I learned a lot from the home visitor.



- Refers high-risk patients to asthma home-visiting services.
 - 350+ referrals received.
- Conducted analyses to compare healthcare utilization among referrals who declined vs. completed the UAHVP.
 - 67% decrease in the mean number of ED visits among those who completed the program.
 - Data administrators shared findings with colleagues at SelectHealth, which led to conversations on reimbursement.

Primary Children's Hospital

Identify

Hospital data administration set up a data query to identify patients who qualify for referral to the UAHVP.

Consent

Referral list sent to case management department to call and get consent to release information to LHDs.

Services

LHDs call referrals and provide home-visiting services.

Feedback

LHDs fill out a spreadsheet on patient status at the end of each month and email it to hospital staff.



Green & Healthy Homes
Initiative™ | Salt Lake

Brings together partners, resources, and funding to implement housing strategies to create healthy, safe, and energy-efficient homes.

Visit 1

- Health educator screens for Green & Healthy Homes eligibility criteria.

Visit 2

- Green & Healthy Homes staff complete an environmental home assessment.
- Clients receive a mattress and pillow cover, air filtration unit, cleaning supplies, and HEPA vacuum.
- Assistance is provided to apply for remediation services.



- Promote guidelines-based asthma care.
- Annual quality improvement learning collaboratives for primary care and pediatric clinics.
- All Payer Claims Database is used to identify geographic areas with high asthma burden and emergency department rates.
 - Build referral channels and target quality improvement efforts with clinics in those areas.

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable Financing

Goal: Support the long-term sustainability of asthma home-visiting services in Utah.

Sustainable Financing Strategies

- Technical Assistance
 - CDC 6|18 Initiative
 - CDC Economic Evaluation Training
 - National Centers for Healthy Housing
 - Data Stewards

The Economic Case: Cost Savings and Return on Investment, 2019

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Cost Components | Yearly funding provided to Local Health Departments to administer the program |
| Cost | \$120,000 |
| % Decrease in Total ED Visits | 70% |
| % Decrease in Total Hospitalizations | 82% |
| Cost Savings | \$442,353.33 |
| ROI | \$2.69 saved |

Medicaid—Utah's Process

- Presented to Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee
 - 2017 (ranked 18) & 2018 (ranked 9)
- Included the UAHVP in a State Block Grant funding request (not approved)
- Requested funding through Medicaid administrative funds

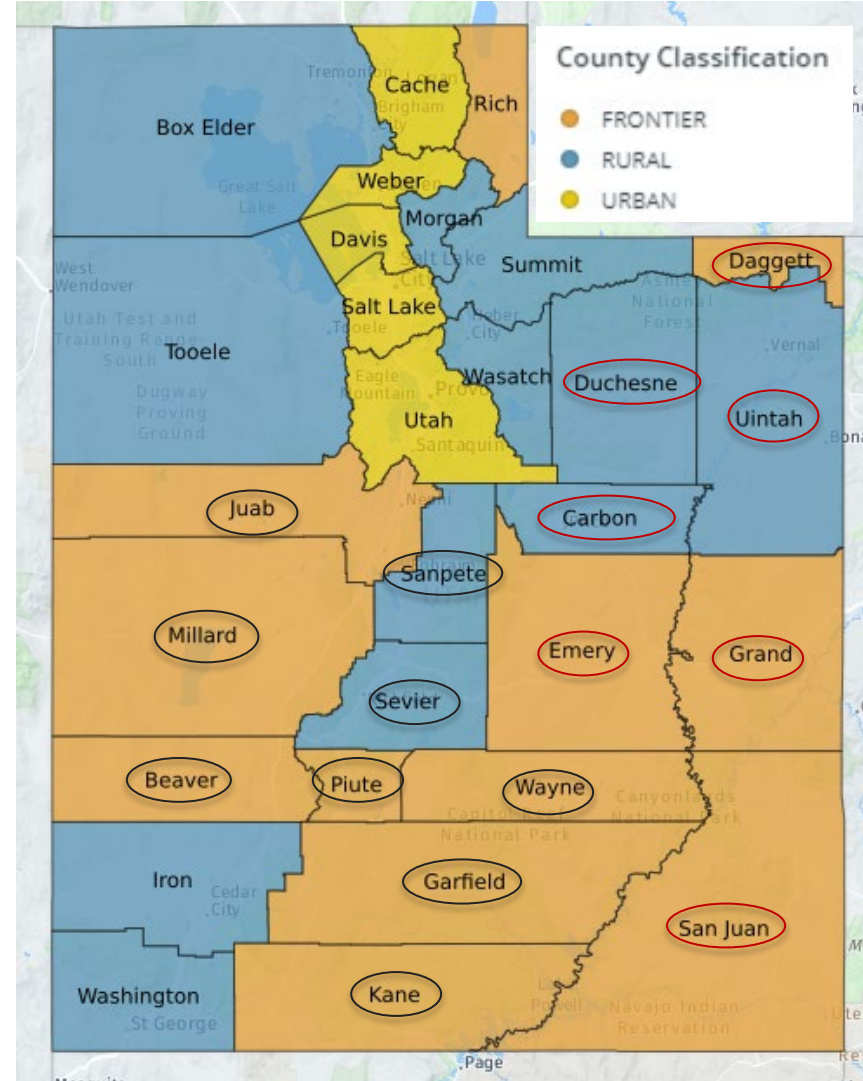
Medicaid

Pros & Cons of Different Avenues for Medicaid Funding

- Direct provider reimbursement
 - State plan amendment
 - Waiver
- Administrative cost reimbursement

Medicaid

- Eligibility limited to Medicaid fee-for-service areas in Utah, serving rural & frontier counties
- 2019—Pilot contracts with two LHDs
- 2021—Regional approach with one contract serving three LHDs
- Hoping to expand to six additional counties in 2022 or 2023





- Met with SelectHealth Medicaid management to present UAHVP outcomes among SelectHealth members
- SelectHealth supported an analysis of cost savings
 - Established contractual relationships with LHDs
 - ROI analysis to be performed
 - Began in January 2022

University of Utah Health Plans (UUHP)

- UUHP helped develop asthma home-visiting curriculum
- UUHP case managers attend quarterly Asthma Home Visiting Network meetings to coordinate efforts



- UUHP works with Green & Healthy Homes Salt Lake to provide an in-home assessment and trigger reduction supply kit to its members with asthma.
- Those who qualify for additional remediation services through the county are assisted in applying for those services.

HEALTH CHOICE UTAH

- UAP presented during a CDC 6|18 meeting on UAHVP outcomes
- Following this meeting, UAP and Health Choice Utah discussed partnership opportunities
- A draft revenue agreement was presented, which outlined the UAHVP referral system, payment model, services, and responsibilities

Questions?

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Polling Question 2

Based on today's presentation, what action do you feel more equipped to take in your asthma program?

1. Approach and enlist new community partners.
2. Expand and enhance your programs' in-home asthma visits.
3. Refine my program's tracking to demonstrate more effective health outcomes and ROI data.
4. Request a mentor on AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org.
5. Apply for the 2023 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management.



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