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THE COMMON HEALTH COALITION SECURES $100M FROM OPENAI FOUNDATION TO DELIVER MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS TO PATIENTS

OpenAI Foundation invests $100 million to launch national "Breakthroughs to Follow-Through" initiative

Effort will begin with the goal of at least doubling hepatitis C cure rates in participating jurisdictions within the next two years, creating a scalable model to harness AI for other pressing health challenges in the U.S.

New York, NY – The Common Health Coalition and OpenAI Foundation today announced a bold new effort to help ensure that medical breakthroughs reach the people who need them. OpenAI Foundation has committed $100 million towards building the Breakthroughs to Follow-Through (B2F) Initiative, an innovative model that will help states and local jurisdictions jump start progress on closing the discovery-to-delivery gap.

The program will begin with a focus on hepatitis C, and aims to expand to HIV prevention, 'curable' cancers, and other topics as identified. The initiative's first goal will bring together state-based partners across sectors to at least double hepatitis C cure rates over the next two years beginning with eight initial states and localities. The initial set of funds will be awarded to local collaborations and non-profit organizations to deploy strategies, including generative AI tools, in their efforts to cure residents of hepatitis C in Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, and Massachusetts. Additional participating jurisdictions will be announced in the next six months.

"Dramatic progress on health is entirely within our reach, but it requires pairing discovery with delivery," said **Dr. Dave A. Chokshi, Chair of the Common Health Coalition**. "Hepatitis C is our first target, but we also have a broader goal with this initiative. By turning 'breakthroughs into follow-through,' we aim to design a modern health infrastructure capable of delivering care to the patients most in need."

"The organizations closest to society's greatest challenges have the deepest understanding of what communities need, but not always the resources or technical expertise to apply transformative technologies that can help solve them," said **Anna Makanju, Head of Civil Society and Philanthropy at OpenAI Foundation**. "We believe this initiative is a model for how AI can strengthen public and community health work and deliver tangible benefits to communities. Our $100 million investment is a commitment to scaling that impact by pairing frontier AI capabilities with the expertise of trusted local partners."

The United States has a highly effective oral medication for hepatitis C that can cure more than 95% of patients in as little as 8-12 weeks. Yet despite this medical breakthrough, 40 Americans still die unnecessarily every day, and hundreds of thousands more – about 2 of every 3 patients living with hepatitis C – remain untreated, leaving them at risk for severe, and sometimes fatal liver damage.

While the Breakthroughs to Follow-Through initiative will help participating jurisdictions make measurable progress on delivering treatments and cures to more residents, achieving national

elimination of hepatitis C will require action at every level of government. Congress is separately considering legislation addressing hepatitis C on a national scale.

“The Breakthroughs to Follow-Through Initiative is an important effort to advance treatment of hepatitis C in a set of eight vanguard jurisdictions,” said **Tim Leshan, Member of the Hepatitis C Elimination Coalition, and Chief External Relations and Advocacy Officer, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health**. “We look forward to closely following these jurisdictions' progress to help inform nationwide elimination efforts. Bipartisan legislation pending before Congress – the Cure Hepatitis C Act, Senate Bill 1491 and House Bill 9682 – would launch a multibillion national hepatitis C elimination effort in the United States, leveraging key lessons from this initiative.”

Breakthroughs to Follow-Through will support local collaborations through technical assistance, implementation expertise, cross-jurisdiction learning, evaluation, and the responsible deployment of AI-enabled tools, equipping frontline teams with the resources and knowledge needed to at least double hepatitis C cure rates in their communities. EqualCure, a national leader in hepatitis C treatment, will lead the hepatitis C Center of Excellence for the initiative, providing clinical technical expertise for local collaborations. The Institute for Public Health Innovation, PopHIVE, and Your Local Epidemiologist will provide additional technical assistance and support across operations, data management, community engagement, workforce, and clinical innovation.

"I became a doctor to help people and curing a deadly disease is the best way to do that," said **Dr. Margaret Hayden, co-founder of EqualCure**. "Yet, even when we have a medical miracle – like a cure for hepatitis C – our fragmented healthcare system fails to deliver it to the people most in need. That is unacceptable. We need creative solutions and look forward to supporting partners on the ground to think differently and bring people the care they deserve."

"For too long, we've treated many of our greatest health challenges as purely scientific problems, when they're also profoundly human ones,” said **Dr. Vivek Murthy, former U.S. Surgeon General.** “Medical breakthroughs have the power to change lives, but only when people can access them. By strengthening relationships between patients, providers, and communities, the Breakthroughs to Follow-Through initiative creates connections to turn lifesaving discoveries into healthier, longer lives.”

“A cure doesn’t help anyone if it never reaches them," said **Dr. Atul Gawande, professor at Ariadne Labs, a joint center at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**. “Our golden era of breakthrough innovation has not been matched by a similar commitment to follow-through innovation. This partnership aims to change that. We have the solutions. But we’ve been missing the infrastructure: to make it easier to find the people falling through the cracks, get their caregivers talking to each other, and enable clinicians to do what they already know how to do.”

“The Breakthroughs to Follow-Through initiative is exactly the kind of cross-sector collaboration we envisioned when we launched the Common Health Coalition a few years ago,” said **Dr. Bechara Choucair, Common Health Coalition steering committee member and Chief Health Officer at Kaiser Permanente.** “The goals set forward reflect the magnitude of what’s possible, not what’s comfortable. We can aim higher because the technology, partnerships and resolve are finally in place to match our ambition."

"Innovation only improves lives when people can actually access it," said **Dr. Mandy Cohen, National Advisor at Manatt Health and former CDC Director**. "The challenge before us isn't whether we can cure hepatitis C, it's whether our systems are built to identify patients, connect them to care, and help them complete treatment. This initiative has immense potential to strengthen those systems and develop a model that can improve health for this health challenge and the ones to come next."

"The American Hospital Association is proud to support the Breakthroughs to Follow-Through initiative," said **Michelle Hood, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, American Hospital Association**. "Hospitals and health systems are committed to ensuring more people have access to curative hepatitis C treatment, and innovative AI tools can help care teams identify eligible patients, connect them to treatment and ultimately improve the health of communities nationwide."

"State health officials have long led the way on hepatitis C elimination efforts, and are equipped to drive meaningful progress for their communities," said **Dr. Joseph Kanter, Chief Executive Officer, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).** "This initiative gives states the tools, funding, and technical support to move from pilot programs towards full elimination efforts. ASTHO is proud to stand behind this work and the states leading it."

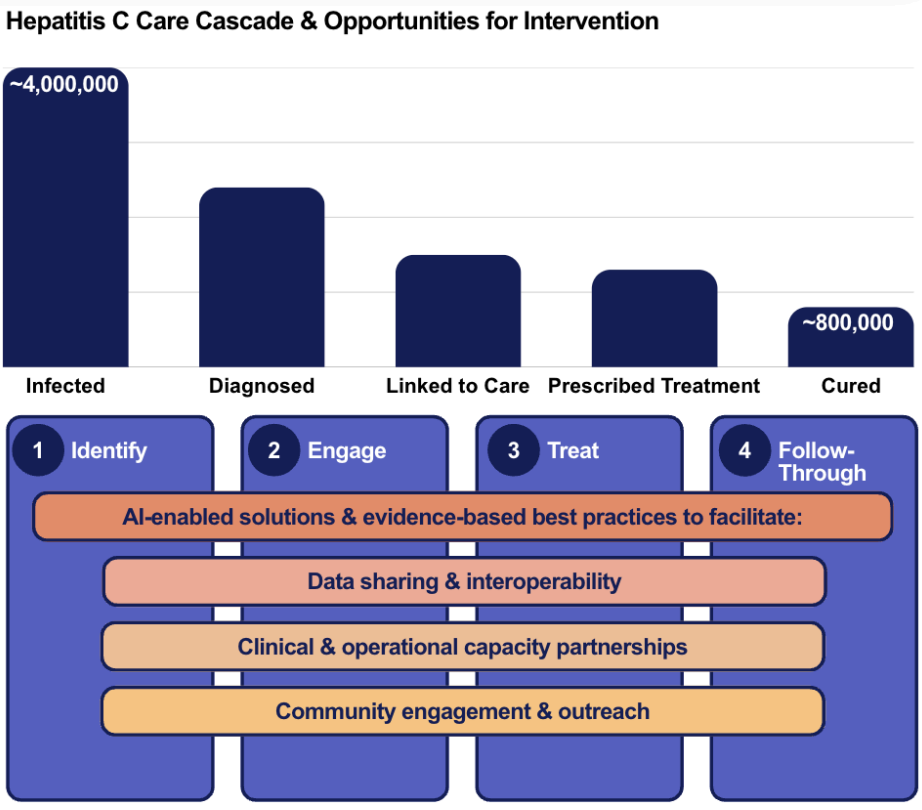
"Getting cures to more patients isn't just a clinical challenge, it's a systems challenge," said **Dr. Mark McClellan, Director of the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy, former CMS Administrator, and former FDA Commissioner.** "It takes data systems that catch patients who fall through the gaps, technology that connects them to the care they need, and payment models that enable closing these care gaps as efficiently as possible. This initiative can show the way to creating sustainable community-based systems that succeed against hepatitis C, and that point the way to scaling value-based care that improves health in our communities."

"Our state is very fortunate to have this opportunity to improve the health of Alabamians living with hepatitis C," said **Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama State Health Officer**. "A cure is available for most people, but we are not always able to reach those who have not yet been diagnosed or connected to care. This initiative gives Alabama an opportunity to bring together the people, partnerships, data, and technology needed to close those gaps. If we can find more people who need treatment and help them receive a cure, we can make a real and measurable difference in the health of Alabamians."

"Hepatitis C is curable," said **Dr. Sameer Vohra, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health.** "Unfortunately, too many Illinoisans face barriers to timely and effective treatment. This investment gives Illinois a powerful opportunity to modernize how we deliver hepatitis C care. By pairing AI-enabled tools with strong partnership across public health, clinical care, and community organizations, we can better identify residents who have fallen through the cracks and reconnect them to lifesaving treatment. IDPH is grateful to the OpenAI Foundation and Common Health Coalition for the resources and collaboration to help close the discovery-to-delivery gap and accelerate our ability to care for people living with hepatitis C."

At every stage of the care cascade, AI-powered tools can help public health, health care delivery systems, and community-based partners work better for the patients they serve, improving both patients' experience with the care system and improving the system itself. AI innovations can help care teams and provide precision and scale that augments the human workforce.

- AI tools can help identify patients who have fallen through the cracks in the system and reconnect them to care and treatment.
- AI co-pilots can synthesize patient records and automate routine administrative work so clinicians can focus on delivering care.
- AI-enabled population intelligence can track progress across the care cascade and assist care teams in focusing efforts where they will have the greatest impact.



National HCV prevalence is based on an analysis by the Coalition for Applied Modeling for Prevention which estimated approximately 4 million people living with HCV in the United States using the latest data available (2017–2020 NHANES data). Estimates of the proportion diagnosed and subsequent stages of the HCV care cascade are informed by this prevalence estimate and additional published literature on the proportion of people with HCV who have documented proof of cure (MMWR 2023).

"Louisiana is dedicated to eliminating hepatitis C from our communities. Throughout the last several years, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has built an innovative foundation propelled by partnerships and public health expertise to achieve that goal," said **Bruce D. Greenstein, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health.** "Hepatitis C medications exist, and it is our duty to ensure residents can find, access, and complete those treatments. The merger of Louisiana's public health experience with data, technology, and cross-sector partnerships will accelerate our progress towards eliminating hepatitis C in our state."

"Hepatitis C is one of the few chronic infectious diseases we can cure, yet sadly, too many people still go undiagnosed or never receive the treatment that could change, even save, their lives," said **Dr. Robbie Goldstein, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health**. "This Coalition is aiming to help close that gap. By combining strong public health partnerships with innovative tools to identify those who have been missed and connect them to timely, curative treatment, we can bring the science that has produced effective therapies to more individuals and more communities. Our challenge is to find and offer

treatment to everyone who can benefit – because a cure can change lives only if it reaches the people who need it."

"Medicine has never lacked breakthroughs, it has lacked follow-through," said **Dr. Darshak Sanghavi, Chief Medical Officer for Machinify and a former federal health official**. "Too many patients are diagnosed and never treated, cured and never even told, because the system loses track of them somewhere between diagnosis and care. Technology can help close that gap: finding the patients who fell through the cracks, connecting them to treatment, and making sure the cures we already have actually reach people. But success will depend not on the technology alone, but on how well we integrate it into our care systems to help the people who need it most."

"Public health works best when communities, clinicians, and public health agencies have the information and partnerships they need to act quickly and effectively," said **Dr. Anne Zink, Director of PopHIVE at the Yale School of Public Health, Former Chief Medical Officer of Alaska.** "Ensuring public health can meet the challenges of today means building systems and data infrastructure that help care teams identify patients earlier, coordinate more effectively across sectors, and continuously learn from what works. We are proud to join the Common Health Coalition as an implementation partner in this initiative."

About The Common Health Coalition
The Common Health Coalition is the nation's largest multi-sector health collaborative – a first-of-its-kind initiative spanning clinician groups, health departments, hospitals, payers, and community organizations. By uniting leaders who rarely share the same table, we turn alignment into action at a scale no single sector can reach alone. Our common goal is to improve the health of people and communities across the nation. We do this by strengthening partnership and dissolving siloes between the health care and public health systems. The Coalition is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. Founded in 2023 by the Alliance of Community Health Plans, AHIP, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and Kaiser Permanente, the Coalition now represents more than 400 members across nearly every state and territory. Learn more by visiting commonhealthcoalition.org and follow on LinkedIn and Instagram.

About OpenAI Foundation
OpenAI Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to ensuring AI benefits all of humanity. The Foundation supports initiatives advancing scientific discovery, strengthening civil society, and building resilience through responsible AI. Through grants, partnerships, and other philanthropic initiatives, the Foundation helps accelerate work that creates lasting public benefit and expands access to AI's transformative potential.
OpenAI Foundation is a separate nonprofit corporation from OpenAI PBC that operates independently in support of its charitable mission.
Learn more at www.openaifoundation.org.

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