

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, the Rhode Island Health Center Association (RIHCA), in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health and the American Cancer Society, brought together professionals, experts, and stakeholders in the field of cancer screening to explore innovative strategies and discuss the importance of addressing social determinants of health. Participants included staff from the eight Federally Qualified Health Centers in Rhode Island (*Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Comprehensive Community Action Program, East Bay Community Action Program, Providence Community Health Centers, Thundermist Health Center, Tri-County Community Action Agency, WellOne Primary Medical & Dental Care & Wood River Health*), and other partner organizations.

The summit provided an opportunity to share insightful data on FQHC breast, cervical, colorectal and lung cancer screening and facilitated in-depth conversations and insights on cancer screening, navigation, and data-driven efforts in the state. It included an incredibly informative training on Motivational Interviewing for cancer navigators that provided a breakdown of complex concepts into actionable steps for supporting conversations about cancer screening. The summit also featured a facilitated activity that provided a platform for participants to share creative strategies and innovative ideas aimed at increasing patient access to cancer screening services by addressing social determinants of health.



The summit concluded with presentations on the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce trends and the CHW workforce strategy for Rhode Island, as well as the American Cancer Society’s national efforts to support cancer navigation training and certification, empowering attendees with new tools and resources. The Cancer Screening Summit was a resounding success, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and inspiration among attendees.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the presenters, panelists, facilitators, and attendees who made the Cancer Screening Summit a memorable and impactful event. Together, we are taking important steps towards improving cancer screening access and outcomes in Rhode Island.