



NACHC Principles for Engagement with Organizations Agreement

The **Principles for Engagement with Organizations** of the **National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)** guide engagement with corporate entities.

Engagement with organizations will be defined as: *A mutually beneficial relationship formed between NACHC and for-profit companies whose purpose is to support NACHC, community health centers, and the communities they serve, and is based on the shared values of the participating organizations.*

General Principles

NACHC's [mission and strategic pillars](#) provide guidance on our values and priorities as an organization representing a national health center movement. With this as the 'north star', the following principles anchor NACHC's engagement with corporations:

- 1) **NACHC's mission and strategic pillars values must drive the proposed engagement** - NACHC's mission and strategic pillars must determine whether a proposed relationship with a corporation is appropriate for NACHC. NACHC will avoid relationships with organizations or industries whose principles, policies, or actions obviously conflict with NACHC's mission or strategic pillars, as documented on NACHC's [website](#).
- 2) **NACHC's current positions on legislative and/or regulatory policies and proposals must not be in opposition to the positions of partners** - NACHC is consistently maintaining multiple positions on federal policies that impact health centers (both enacted and under consideration). These positions are informed by NACHC's Board of Directors and through its governance structure. Engagement with corporations must ensure that a partner is not in opposition and/or conflict with NACHC's current policy positions.
- 3) **The relationship must preserve or promote trust in NACHC and in the health center movement** - To be effective, professionalism requires the public's trust. Relationships with corporations that could undermine the public's trust in NACHC and/or community health centers will not be considered. For example, no relationship should raise questions about the content of NACHC's conferences, NACHC's advocacy on issues, or the truthfulness of its public statements.
- 4) **The relationship must maintain NACHC's objectivity with respect to issues impacting community health centers and the patients/communities they serve.** - NACHC accepts funds or royalties from external organizations only if acceptance does not pose a conflict of

interest and does not impact the objectivity of NACHC, its members, activities, programs, and/or employees. NACHC's objectivity with respect to issues impacting health centers or the populations they serve should not be biased by external relationships.

- 5) **Relationships must not permit or encourage undue influence by a corporate partner on NACHC** - NACHC encourages engagements with corporations that help the society understand the community health center sector, its overall goals and values, and interest. As such, NACHC may encourage the representation of representatives from corporate partners on advisory committees (not within the governance structure of NACHC) and/or as part of offerings or programs when relevant.

- 6) **Participation in NACHC, whether through a sponsorship, exhibit, membership, or other programs, does not imply NACHC's endorsement of an entity or its policies** - Participation by a corporation in NACHC does not imply NACHC's approval of that corporation's general policies, nor does it imply that NACHC will exert any influence to advance the corporation's interests outside the substance of the arrangement itself. NACHC's name and logo should not be used in a manner that would express or imply a NACHC endorsement of the corporation or its policies.