



BRIEF HISTORY

Organized in 1984 as a program of Berkshire AHEC, Inc., Community Partners (CP) first created health and human service coalitions in three rural areas of Massachusetts. Over time, the success of these coalitions led CP to develop other capacity-building activities, including model programs, conferences, trainings, and a variety of publications. These activities were offered both statewide and nationally.

In 1997, in response to the urgency of the need expressed by Massachusetts community coalitions, CP began the health care access programming that has drawn national recognition. CP has an excellent record of developing model health access programs with partner community organizations and subsequently achieving long-term sustainability and integration.

In October, 2001, Community Partners, Inc. split from Berkshire AHEC to become an independent 501 (c) 3 organization, focusing on ensuring access to health care that is equitable, responsive, accountable and grounded in the practical realities of people's lives. In addition to our expertise in health care access, we specialize in online strategy and communications, and non-profit operations. With the Health Access Network (HAN) as our core activity, CP has focused on the frontline "helpers" who work at the community level to assist people to get health care coverage.

Subsequent programming has focused on innovative ways to meet the needs of these outreach workers in a changing environment. Activities have included collection and dissemination of best practices for assisting people after they are enrolled to actually get the care they need, and using mobile technology to expand the reach of outreach allowing workers to enroll people wherever they are – home, hospital bed, or laundromat.

CP currently has a staff of 6 working from offices in Amherst, Massachusetts, and greatly enhanced by collaboration of our constituents and partners statewide.