

Press Release: Virginia To Launch New Research Consortium to Strengthen Evidence-Based Health Reform Efforts in the Commonwealth

Richmond, Virginia, October 7, 2025 – This evening, the Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI) will officially launch its Research Consortium with a celebratory event at the Branch Museum of Design. More than 100 representatives from industry, academia, state government, and data organizations are expected to gather to recognize this significant milestone in strengthening Virginia’s capabilities for streamlined, evidence-based, actionable health policy research.

Backed by \$500,000 in initial funding from the General Assembly, the Research Consortium will leverage strategic data partnerships and foster cross-sector collaboration to maximize the use of Virginia’s existing data infrastructure, align data resources with expert analysis, and establish a centralized hub to streamline contracting and data sharing among entities. Through the Research Consortium, Virginia is already the first state in the country to partner with Epic to use its Cosmos population health data and with Mathematica to use its Transparency in Coverage data to drive state policy.

The Consortium aims to leverage research improvements to reduce costs for state-directed research, improve data transparency, and ensure research funding is effectively distributed across Virginia’s universities and institutions. Together, these efforts will enhance the Commonwealth’s competitiveness for grant opportunities and build a cohesive, data-driven narrative of healthcare in Virginia to guide both state and national policy.

Tuesday’s launch event will feature remarks from John Littel, Chief of Staff to Governor Glenn Youngkin, Rodney Willett, Virginia State Delegate from the 58th District, and Jeff Ricketts, VCHI Chair and former Anthem Virginia CEO. Willett and Ricketts will co-chair the Research Consortium’s Research Executive Committee, which will guide research priorities. Aneesh Chopra (Arcadia), Jeff Dobro (Eudiamonia Concepts), Shelly Smith (UVA), and Christopher Koller (Milbank Memorial Fund) will serve as additional committee members. From VCHI, Lauryn Walker will serve as the Consortium’s Executive Director, with Meredith Young as Senior Researcher.

The Consortium’s launch event was made possible through the generous support of Virginia Health Information, the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, UnitedHealthcare, Ballad Health, Carilion Clinic, George Mason University College of Public Health, the University of Virginia School of Nursing, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Health Policy, and the William & Mary Schroeder Center.

The Consortium marks a new era of collaboration and innovation that will strengthen Virginia’s health research ecosystem and improve outcomes for communities across the Commonwealth. To stay informed about Research Consortium initiatives and outcomes, follow the Virginia Center for Health Innovation on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or visit www.vahealthinnovation.org.

About the Virginia Center for Health Innovation

Incorporated in January 2012 following a recommendation from Gov. Robert McDonnell’s Virginia Health Reform Initiative, the Virginia Center for Health Innovation

(VCHI) seeks to facilitate innovation by convening key stakeholders and securing the resources to accelerate value-driven models of wellness and health care throughout Virginia. VCHI's work is focused on achieving three aims: reducing low-value health care, increasing high-value health care, and ensuring Virginia has the infrastructure in place to measure and reward value in health care.

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