About ECHO-Chicago

The Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) is an innovative approach to building primary care capacity at community and academic health centers. ECHO facilitates workforce development by providing advanced training for community-based primary care providers that increases their use of best care practices in managing common chronic conditions. The University of Chicago Medicine’s ECHO-Chicago program is the longest-running urban ECHO program in the world. Using high-quality videoconference technology, ECHO-Chicago brings together experts from the University of Chicago and elsewhere in partnership with community-based healthcare providers to engage in case-based learning and disease management for communities with limited resources. Through ECHO-Chicago, community-based primary care providers gain the advanced skills required to deliver complex care directly to patients in their medical home. As a result, patients receive evidence-based care for complex, chronic conditions delivered by the provider who knows them best—their primary care provider. Patients no longer need to wait for an appointment with a specialist or travel to a major medical center for care. This leads to more cost-effective care, with proven cost savings.

Accelerating knowledge transfer...

- ECHO-Chicago capacity building training focuses on the most common, complex chronic adult and pediatric physical and mental health conditions.

- Series are comprised of 10-17 sessions. Each weekly, hour-long session includes a 20-minute didactic followed by participant-led case presentations.

- Participants receive guidance and support on managing challenging patient cases from both subject matter experts and their peers.

- There is no cost or travel required to participate; training is provided via interactive videoconference.

- Activities are approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (CME), MOC Part II & IV, and CEUs.

...to transform community healthcare
Letter from the Team

Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) represents the final stretch of ECHO-Chicago’s first 10 years. Looking back on our first decade, we are so proud of how much we’ve grown and so thankful for the 1,400+ providers from 220 organizations across the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois, and beyond who have participated in our program. Over 10 years we’ve had 1,664 hours of ECHO sessions and discussed 2,300 patient cases. We also continue to see consistent impact, as 84% of participants show an increase in self-efficacy after training when compared to their baseline.

Our 10 years of experience in building community capacity to address important health issues was crucial in our ability to rapidly respond when the COVID-19 pandemic began. Our four COVID-19 series to date focused on supporting healthcare and other essential services like education during these unprecedented times. We hope you’ll read more about our COVID initiatives and their impact later in this report. ECHO-Chicago also continued to expand in other important areas, launching the Complex Diabetes: Managing Medical and Social Issues series in January 2020 as well as the launching of our first series focused on judges and the legal system in mid-2020.

One of the things that makes ECHO-Chicago special is the collaboration within our team, and the celebration of each individual’s strengths. While many of you see our team during sessions, there’s quite a bit that happens behind the scenes. Sandra and Patrick work together on data and research that allows us to improve what we do, as well as share what we’ve learned through publications. Marielle and Isa work on expanding the ECHO-Chicago network by building and maintaining community relationships with providers, health care clinics, and strategic partners. Dawn works logistical miracles to keep the team organized and help ensure that the program continues to thrive. Kanika, Karen, and Daniel help guide the team in finding solutions for issues that arise and also work to chart out a course for the future. Kathryn focuses on the stories behind the data, helping us learn more about participants’ experiences in our program and the impact that has on their practice. You can find those stories on our blog, featured in our podcast series, or on social media. On Twitter, you can also follow the adventures of our (now masked) mascot, Nigel the Narwhal!

As we look ahead towards the future of ECHO-Chicago, we are thankful for our many participants and partners who have helped to make these past 10 years so fruitful and meaningful. We hope that ECHO-Chicago will continue to be a critical program for the many providers and organizations who participate in our telementoring each year. As a team, we look forward to future collaborations, both internal and external, as we continue to fulfill the greater ECHO mission of democratizing knowledge. Thank you for being part of our journey so far—we look forward to you being part of our next decade!

Sincerely,
The ECHO-Chicago Team
FY20 Participation

85% show an increase post-series compared to baseline
59% show an increase to the next level of proficiency

Participant self-efficacy

FY20 Participation

ECHO-Chicago Participants

202 were new to ECHO-Chicago
64% completed a Series (attended at least 75% of sessions)
14% enrolled in more than one series over the year
1,749 CME hours were awarded
**FY20 Financials**

- 45% Program Staff
- 30% Subject Matter Experts
- 16% Public Health Projects
- 5% Community Partnerships
- 3% CME

**Thank you!**

- Americasres
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Chicago Center for Diabetes Translational Research and Dean’s Office of the Biological Sciences Division of the University of Chicago
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Coleman Foundation
- Grant Healthcare Foundation
- Health Resources & Service Administration
- Illinois Primary Health Care Association
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Prince Charitable Trust
- National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health
- Office of Minority Health, DHHS
- Dr. Petra Rissman and Randy O. Rissman
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Telligen Community Initiatives
- UChicago Medicine
- UChicago Medicine Urban Health Initiative
- United Health Group Foundation

**Sources of funding**

- Federal
- Foundation and non-profit
- UChicago Medicine
- Private Donors
- City of Chicago

**FY20**

- 4% CME
- 33% Community Partnerships
- 19% Public Health Projects
- 7% Subject Matter Experts
- 37% Program Staff

**FY21 Projected**

- 45% Program Staff
- 35% Subject Matter Experts
- 9% Public Health Projects
- 6% Community Partnerships
- 4% CME
- 41% Program Staff
- 36% Community Partnerships
- 23% Public Health Projects
- 5% Subject Matter Experts
Most Series Attended:
Jose Rodriguez, MD, Access Community Health Network completed 11 ECHO-Chicago series from July 2017 to present, which includes 125 total sessions.

Most Providers Trained:
Andrew Aronsohn, MD has trained the most providers over the last 6 years with a total of 459 participants in the Hepatitis C and Opioid Use Disorder series, and continues to mentor participants on the diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C.

Most Sessions Coordinated:
Isa Rodriguez, Project Coordinator at ECHO-Chicago, has coordinated the most sessions over her 5 year tenure at ECHO-Chicago, with a total of 454 session hours logged to date.

Longest Clinic Partner:
Chicago Family Health Center was among the first clinical partners of ECHO-Chicago in November 2010 and their providers and leadership have continued to consistently participate in series, research projects, and advisory groups.

Longest Strategic Partner:
The Grant Healthcare Foundation has been a partner since 2011, providing support through grant funding as well as helping us connect with health care organizations and programs across the city doing synergistic work.

Longest Internal Partner:
The Urban Health Initiative at the University of Chicago provided seed-funding that helped launch ECHO-Chicago in 2010 and has been an internal champion of our work ever since, promoting what we do to health care organizations, potential funders, stakeholder groups, and the broader community.

Partner Perspective: UChicago Medicine Urban Health Initiative

“ECHO-Chicago has increased our capability to bring the most current knowledge and expertise to our partnering community providers and now to residents in our community that need help with self-management of asthma. Before COVID-19 caused us to pivot to Zoom as our method of providing scaled access to knowledge and tools, ECHO was already using this platform. As a result, UChicago Medicine partners have been able to continue to receive the high quality engagement, knowledge and tools necessary for helping our patients.”—Brenda Battle, Vice President, Urban Health Initiative and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Responding to COVID-19

In late March 2020, ECHO-Chicago rapidly deployed COVID-19-focused series to provide up-to-date information and best practices in the emerging pandemic. These sessions, which are set to continue through the rest of 2020, aim to address the constantly shifting knowledge base in adult and pediatric COVID care. An additional series was developed and run in May to address the special needs of caregivers and staff at Skilled Nursing Facilities across the state. As Fall approached and schools struggled with a decision about how to reopen, a series was developed to confront the specific impact of COVID-19 in the school setting. The series were attended by Illinois educators and administrators in August 2020.

### Adult & Pediatric Series

- **869 Total Participants**
- **214 Total Organizations**
- **83 Participants Avg per Session**

### Skilled Nursing Facilities Series

- **105 Total Participants**
- **35 Total Organizations**
- **40 Participants Avg per Session**

### Illinois Educators & Administrators Series (IEA & IASA)

- **166 Total Participants**
- **126 Total Organizations**
- **68 Participants Avg per Session**

#### Average participants per session reported

- **82%**
  - Average participants per session reported feeling more or much more in control in their professional capacity after a given session

- **79%**
  - Average participants per session reported the content contained new & relevant info with potential or definite impact on their professional performance

#### COVID-19 series: FQHC leader shares experience

“As the COVID-19 pandemic washes over the country there is a sea of information and near constant change. The series have been opportunities to keep current and learn new developments. The information has provided direction for our center in screening, testing, treatment, and surveillance for complications of COVID-19. I am grateful that ECHO-Chicago provided critical information in the midst of the public health crisis. We have seen the benefits and look forward to continuing to participate in ECHO-Chicago programs in the years to come. Congratulations to ECHO-Chicago.”

—Lester Hockenberry, MD, Medical Director, Family Christian Health Center
The Comprehensive Care Learning Collaborative (CCLC), started in 2018, aims to improve patient care by sharing different models of care for patients at increased risk of hospitalization, such as the University of Chicago’s Comprehensive Care Program (CCP). CCP began in 2013 as a randomized controlled trial of over 2,300 patients who now receive both inpatient and outpatient care from the same physician. The Social Service Alignment Learning Collaborative (SSALC) ECHO series developed in partnership with the Comprehensive Care Community and Culture Program (C4P) launched in early 2019 and expands on CCP by addressing patients’ social needs and by building a network among different social service agencies across Chicago.

ECHO-Chicago works with the South Side Healthy Aging Resource Experts (SHARE) network to improve health outcomes for older adults in Chicago by creating a network of care providers who share resources and education. A Skilled Nursing Facility component was added in FY17. Funding comes from HRSA and the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.

ECHO-Chicago partners with the South Side Pediatric Asthma Center and Urban Health Initiative’s (UHI) Pediatric Asthma Community Health Worker Program to improve asthma management care in underserved communities across Chicago. The HRSA-funded ECHO project leverages the ECHO-Chicago infrastructure to build capacity for the management of complex pediatric asthma among community-based PCPs and improve their use of evidence-based asthma management practices.

In March 2019, the National Institute on Drug Abuse funded ETHIC (Ending Transmission of HIV, HCV, STDs, and overdose In rural Communities). A partnership between the University of Chicago and the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, this three-year, $5.1 million award focuses on addressing infectious disease transmission among rural populations who inject drugs in 16 Southern Illinois counties. The prevention of both opioid overdose and transmission of infectious diseases depends upon increased access to care and treatment. ECHO-Chicago contributes to this work by providing hepatitis C training for primary care providers and opioid use disorder training for emergency departments.

In partnership with Americares, ECHO-Chicago began the Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) project to provide additional support and resources to free and charitable clinics (FCCs) across the nation to help them meet the needs of un- or under-insured patients. Participation is team-based, ranging from primary care providers and behavioral health specialists to IT staff and clinic leadership. Facilitated by experts from the University of Chicago and CommunityHealth (a Chicago FCC), BHI creates a network of care providers sharing resources and education and supports care teams in implementing the Collaborative Care Model as a way to integrate behavioral health into their clinics. Participants conduct quality improvement projects focused on site operations and also present patient cases. At the end of each series, each clinic presents their individual capstone project, highlighting systems changes made during the series.

For a comprehensive list of all presentations and publications for ECHO-Chicago, visit us here.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health Integration: Systems Collaborative Care</td>
<td>Facilitators: Doriane Miller, MD; Daniel Yohanna, MD; Christina Newport; Ornella Razetto, LCSW</td>
<td>17 PDSAs presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Diabetes: Managing Medical and Social Issues</td>
<td>Facilitators: Celeste Thomas, MD, MS; Monica Peek, MD; Carlie Paul, RD; LDN, CDE; Anna Heilbrun, PhD; Margaret Allison, PharmD; Daniel Thomas, LCSW; RoShawanda Thompson, CHW</td>
<td>New topic area launched</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geriatrics for Primary Care &amp; Skilled Nursing Facilities</td>
<td>Facilitators: Katherine Thompson, MD; Christina Bernhardt, LCSW; Lauren Gleason, MD; Stacie Levine, MD; Monica Long, RN; Patricia MacClarence, LCSW; Michelle Martinchek, MD</td>
<td>120th provider trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C for Primary Care &amp; Case Management</td>
<td>Facilitators: Andrew Aronsohn, MD; Colleen Blackshear, PharmD; Maggie Kaufmann, MA, MPH; Jill Wolf, LCSW</td>
<td>150th health care site participated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid Use Disorder</td>
<td>Facilitators: Beth Dunlap, MD; George Weyer, MD; Kimberly Watts, LCSW, MSW, CADC</td>
<td>115th case presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistant Hypertension</td>
<td>Facilitator: George Bakris, MD</td>
<td>160th Session led by Dr. Bakris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serious Mental Illness</td>
<td>Facilitators: Doriane Miller, MD; Daniel Yohanna, MD; Sarah Keedy, PhD; Royce Lee, MD; Jeffrey Rado, MD, MPH; Angela Rogers, APN, MSN, MPH; Nancy Beckman, PhD; Barrett Kern, PsyD</td>
<td>115th case presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Health: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Complex Care</td>
<td>Facilitator: Sandra Naaman, MD</td>
<td>145th provider trained</td>
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**FY20 Adult Series**
IPHCA Collaboration: Diabetes & Primary Care

“The Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) has collaborated with ECHO-Chicago on a Complex Diabetes ECHO series, which included sharing insights from health center leaders at member sites and providing information to address their needs related to diabetes care. We do hope to continue this series and look for additional opportunities in the future to collaborate and develop series about similarly important health topics. Diabetes has been a priority area for among health centers and IPHCA, as well as our governing agency which is known as HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration), for the past few years. Health centers had been seeing increased rates of patients with uncontrolled diabetes who presented with other comorbidities, as well as deepening their understanding of those social determinants of health factors that affect diabetes patients. The Complex Diabetes series was able to specifically address those challenges that health centers have been seeing in their communities, as well as provide the insight of different experts and peers. In addition to our work on diabetes, a lot of our health centers have participated in other ECHO-Chicago programs; I have heard about the Hypertension series especially, as that is a series that a lot of our health centers did benefit from it and had great things to say about.

I think in the next decade, or coming years, we definitely hope to continue our collaborations and partnership with the ECHO-Chicago team, and hopefully develop more series based on topics that address the needs of the community health centers throughout Illinois.—Naila Quraishi, MPH, Clinical Quality Improvement Manager, Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA).
Thank you to all the additional staff and subject matter experts that contributed to ECHO-Chicago’s first 10 years.

Kruti Acharya, MD | Carol Adams, PhD | Jonathan Adelstein, MD | Catie Aftuck | Omar Al Dhaybi, MD
Waleed Ali, MD | Fabiana Araujo, PhD | McKay Barra | Conswaylla Bell, RN
Jeniil Bennett | Grace Berry, MD | Thomas Best, PhD | Mary Blaney-Rychener, LCSW | Karen Blouin
Basmattee Boordam, PhD | Elizabeth Boyle, FNP-BC, MSN | Steve Brown, MSW | Edsel Campbell | Mercedes Castiel, MD, FRCSC, FACOG, NCMP | Erica Chedid | Monica Christmas, MD | Maria Corpuz | Myra Cox
Allison Crawford, MD | Wil Cronenwett, MD | Sejal Danawala, MD | Diane Davis | Sadhana
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Jennifer Rusiecki, MD | Ernest Sanders | Stephen Schrantz, MD | Tracy Schultz | Maryam Siddiqui, MD | Kenneth Silver, MD
Linda Simmons | Julia Simon, MD | Dana Sohmer, MA | Hillel Sternlicht, MD
Crystal Stevenson | Bradley Stolbach, PhD | Lauren Strohm | Richard Szczepanski | Sigria Tandy
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Zuoli Zhang, MD | Ann Zmuda, DPM