

Health at Home Challenge Update

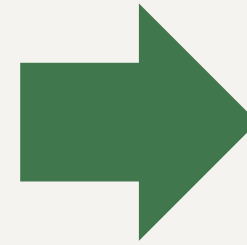
Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging

September 16, 2026 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.



TODAY'S UPDATE

1. Texas context and the No Wrong Door framework
2. Health at Home Challenge partnership and HHSC role
3. Phase 2 status, service pathways, and Athena development
4. Workforce and training requirements
5. AAA participation, funding guidance, and upcoming milestones



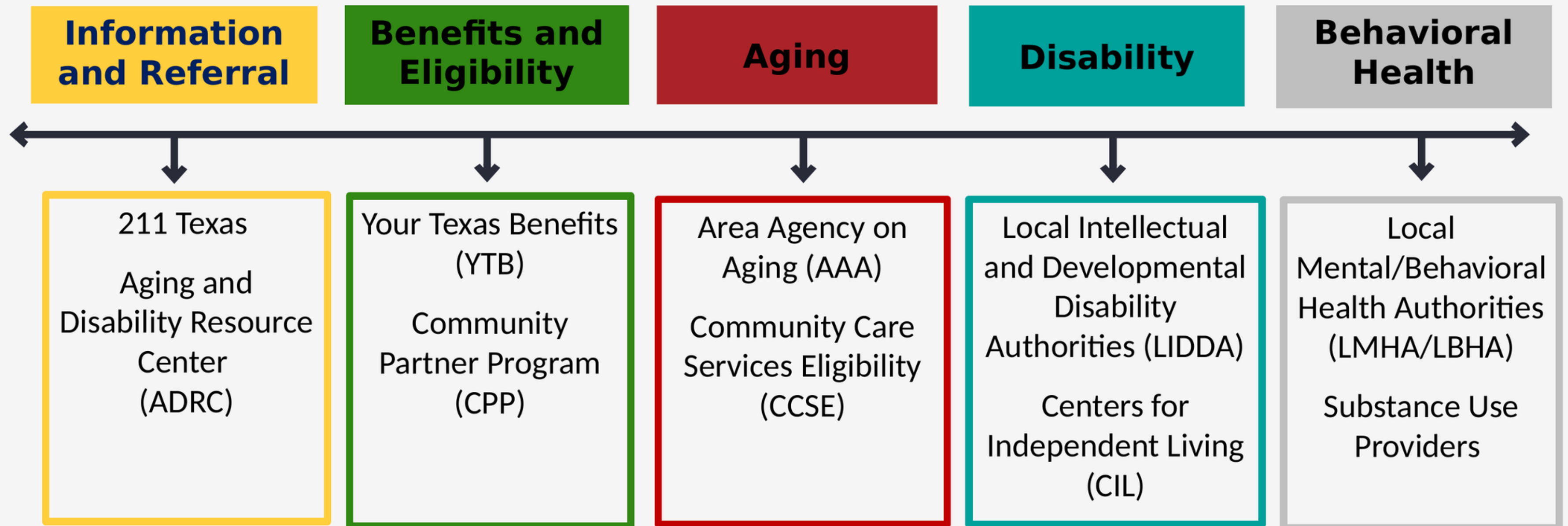
TEXAS CONTEXT: NO
WRONG DOOR



Texas Health and
Human Services
Commission (HHSC)

NWD Primary Access Points

NWD primary access points are entities that use person-centered approaches and serve as an entry point for community members to learn about and access LTSS.



TEXAS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

- **Texas Health at Home Challenge partners include:**
 - **CATCH of Greater Houston**
 - **Texas Healthy at Home**
 - **The Health Collaborative**
 - **Texas Health and Human Services Commission**
- **The three Community Care Hubs are coordinating Phase 2 implementation with HHSC and national Health at Home partners.**
- **The partnership is intended to strengthen connections among the aging network, community-based providers, healthcare organizations, and payers.**

HHSC ROLE AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

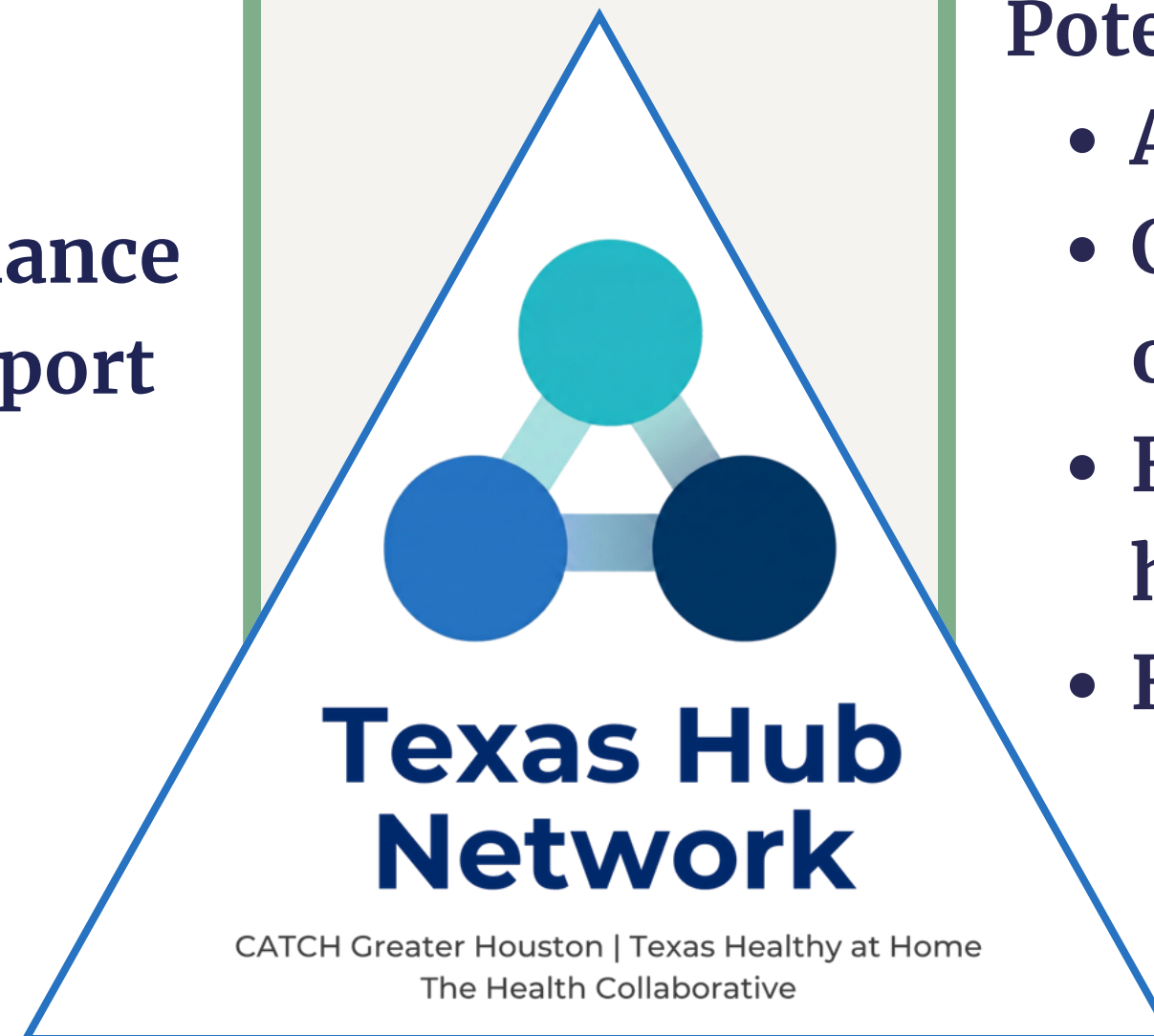
HHSC serves as a strategic partner by leveraging the statewide No Wrong Door framework to support coordinated, person-centered access to long-term services and supports.

HHSC contributes statewide systems alignment, convening capacity, and strategic guidance, supporting collaboration among Community Care Hubs, health systems, health payers, Area Agencies on Aging, and other community-based partners.

HUB FUNCTIONS & POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

Hub functions

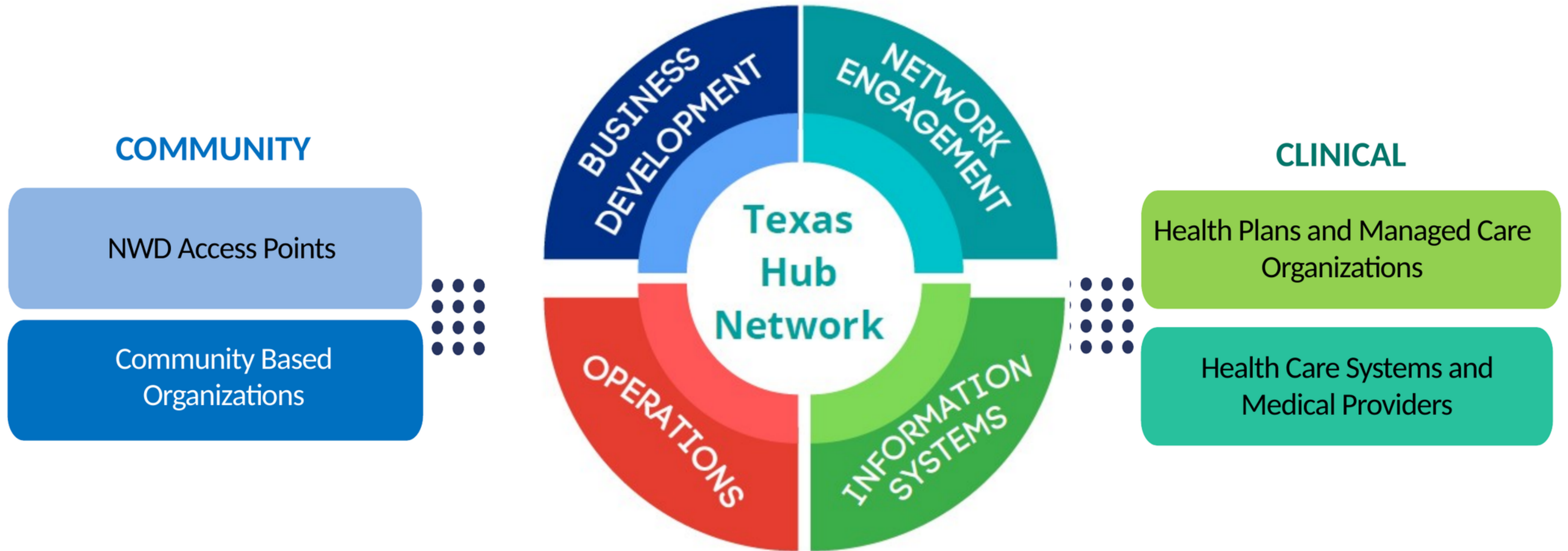
- Network management
- Contracting and compliance
- Billing and payment support
- Technology and data infrastructure
- Performance reporting
- Technical assistance
- Workforce training and capacity building



Potential participants

- Area Agencies on Aging
- Community-based organizations
- Healthcare providers and health systems
- Health plans and other payers

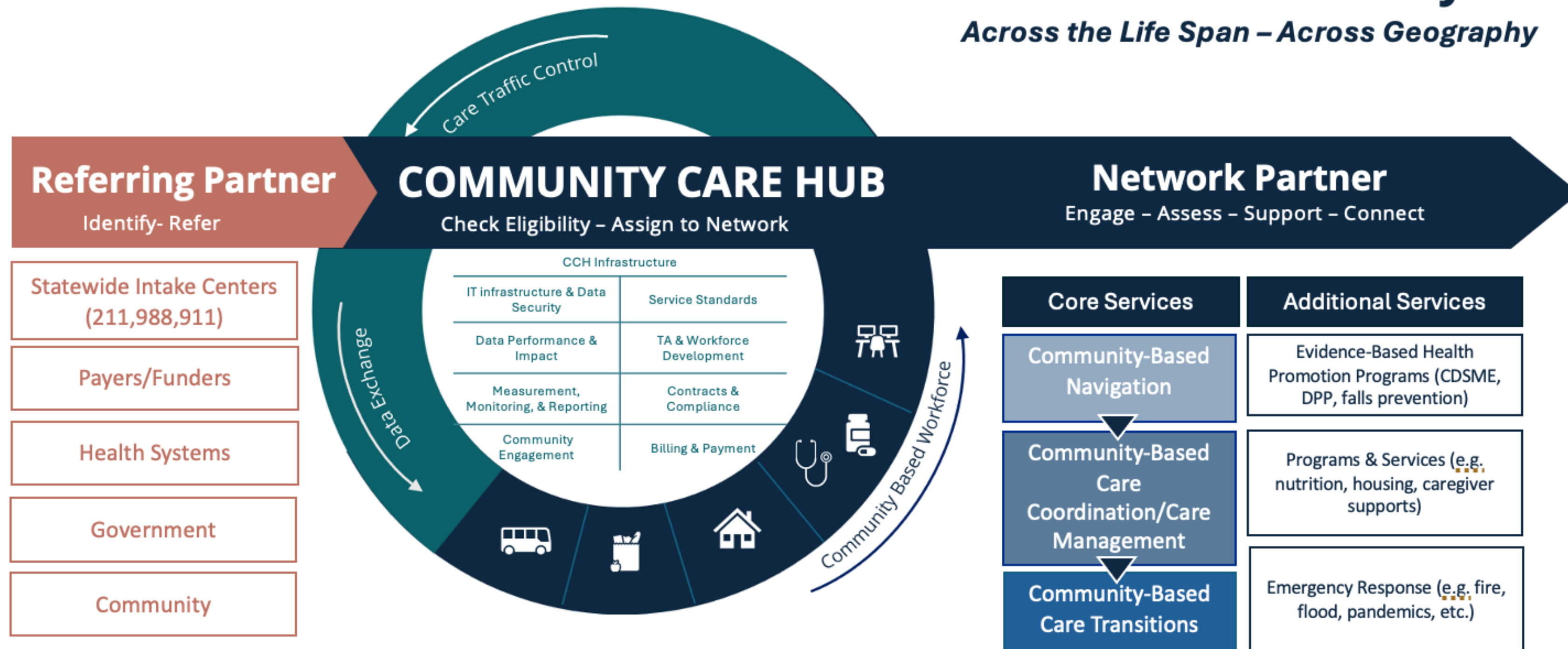
Community Clinical Integration



Enabling a more connected, effective, and person-centered system of care

Whole Person & Family Care

Across the Life Span – Across Geography



HEALTH AT HOME CHALLENGE STATUS

- Texas hub coordination: Ongoing
- AAA agreements: Initial agreements under development for seven AAAs (confirm count)
- Pathways 1 and 2: Implementation milestones and participating-provider roles being refined
- Athena configuration: Proposed structure received; partner, payer, service, and volume information being collected
- Workforce development: CHW, STEADI, Care Transitions, and Stepping On training and certification needs being coordinated
- External partnerships: Health system and payer relationships continue to be developed

CORE SERVICES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- **Community-based navigation**
- **Care transitions**
- **Care coordination / care management**
- **Evidence-based health-promotion programs**
- **Connections to additional community services**



SERVICE PATHWAYS

- Phase 2 includes multiple service pathways and a menu of community-based services rather than a single intervention.
- Referral processes, provider roles, data requirements, and billing workflows are being defined for each pathway.
- See Hub Functions and Potential Participants for hub-level roles and eligible partners.

PROPOSED ATHENA PHASE 2 STRUCTURE

CATCH will provide overall management for Phase 2. Texas Healthy at Home, The Health Collaborative, and CATCH are represented as individual hubs.

Each hub will identify network partners expected to provide billable services and healthcare organizations or payers in its network, and will provide anticipated service volume and the services expected to be delivered.

Under review/ development: Athena licensing and data-sharing requirements; referral flow; platform access; billing and workflow responsibilities; technical assistance for community-based organizations and healthcare partners; and placement of partners participating in future billing pilots.

ATHENA PHASE 2: HUB ROLES

CATCH:

Overall Phase 2 manager

Provides overall management for Phase 2 across the Texas hubs, including coordination of hub-level Athena configuration.

Texas Healthy at Home:

Individual hub

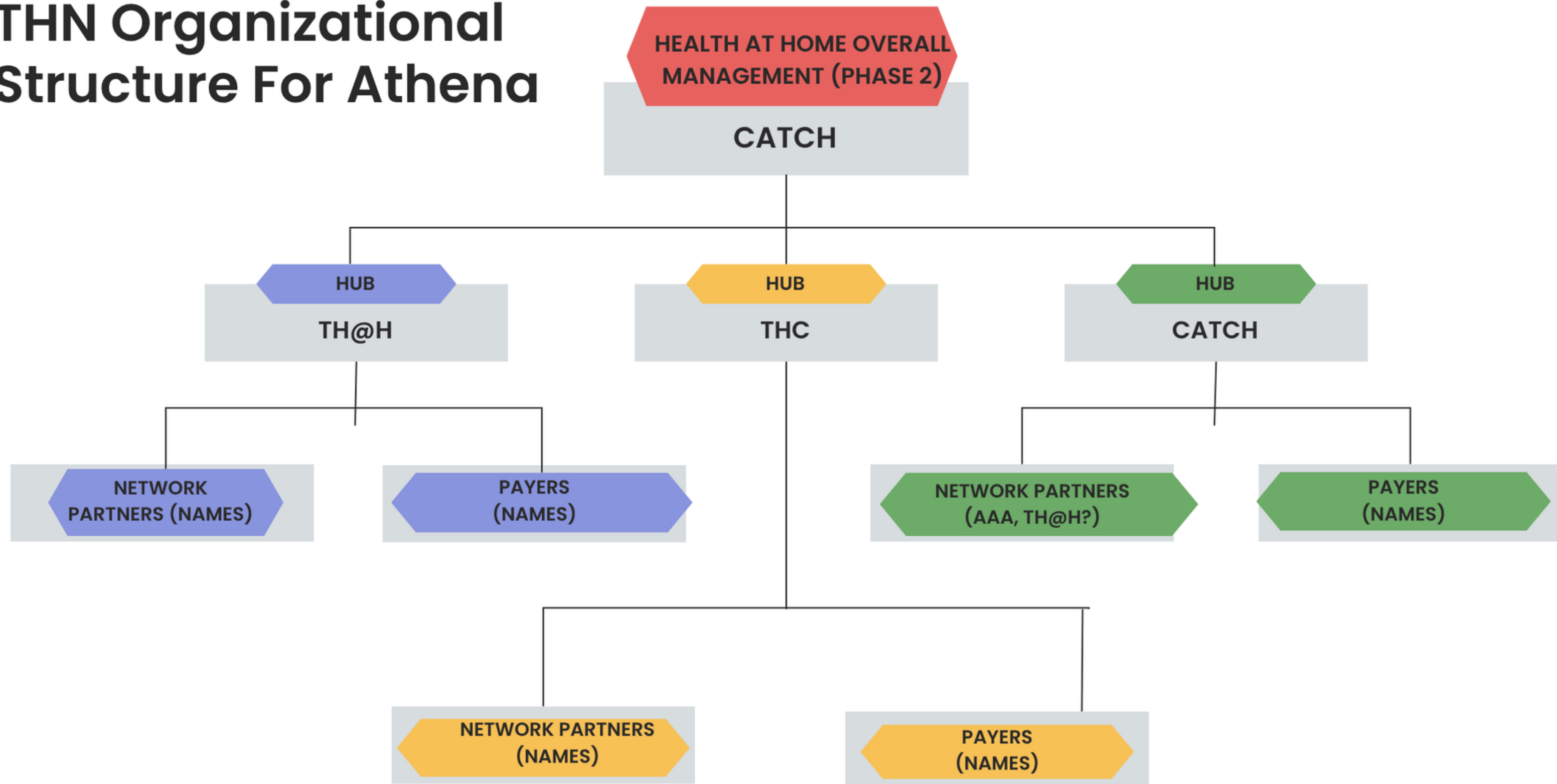
Identifies network partners expected to provide billable services and the healthcare organizations or payers in its network; provides anticipated service volume.

The Health Collaborative:

Individual hub

Identifies network partners expected to provide billable services and the healthcare organizations or payers in its network; provides anticipated service volume.

THN Organizational Structure For Athena



WORKFORCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Training and certification requirements depend on the services each AAA or network partner plans to provide.
- Anticipated Medicare-billable services may require trained and certified Community Health Workers and workforce preparation in STEADI and Care Transitions (confirm final Medicare billing requirements).
- Stepping On is one evidence-based service within the broader menu of Health at Home activities.
- Initial Stepping On training scheduled for September 14–16, 2026, with additional confirmed training dates on November 17 and December 1, 2026. Additional virtual Stepping On facilitator trainings are anticipated in early 2027.
- Training schedules, certification requirements, participant targets, and funding responsibilities remain under review.

AAA PARTICIPATION

- Seven AAAs are included in the initial phase; agreements are being developed.
- AAA roles may include serving as a No Wrong Door access point; making and receiving referrals; delivering core and evidence-based services; developing the local workforce; engaging providers; and supporting healthcare and payer relationships.
- Additional AAAs may express interest; local funding, contracting, workflow, and training questions will require individual follow-up.

FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Additional guidance on Title III funding has been requested from ACL.
- Additional HHSC/SUA clarification is being requested regarding allowable AAA participation.
- More detailed guidance may be forthcoming on blending and braiding funding.
- Local contracting, budgeting, credentialing, billing, and workflow questions will require individualized follow-up.

NEXT MILESTONES

- **Sept 14–16: Initial Stepping On facilitator training**
- **Fall 2026: Advance Pathway 1 and 2 milestones; continue Athena and AAA agreements**
- **Late 2026: Prepare facilitators for Stepping On Master Trainer training**
- **Early 2027: Begin broader workforce training**
- **Ongoing: Finalize service definitions and COG/AAA lead organization agreements, workflows, funding guidance, and partners**

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS