



*Improving Health ~ Eliminating Disparities*

**FOR IMMEDIATION RELEASE**

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**COMMUNITIES JOINED IN ACTION NAMES NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

ATLANTA - Communities Joined in Action (CJA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Odessa K. Chavous, PhD, as the National Engagement Manager for the SCALE 2.0 initiative, an approach to community-based health improvement that directly engages community coalitions and their stakeholders in building and sustaining a local culture of health emphasizing equity and wellness.

In her new role, Chavous will be working closely with CJA community members and national SCALE leadership to assist local stakeholders in accessing a robust suite of community tools to support engagement, evaluation, and measurement. These tools are intended to help local leaders accelerate their local work and adopt a shared vision for both health equity and local capacity building.

“CJA is thrilled to have Chavous join our team and lead this effort,” CJA Chair, Linda Kinney says. “Community-based work is pivotal to ensuring the national goal of population health improvement and community wellness. Throughout our nation, health providers are grappling with ways to address the social determinants of health that impede the ability of people to achieve health. These local community leaders and their impressive coalitions are actively building systems of support and transformation to address social determinants and improve health access one community at a time. We want to ensure that every one of them has the best tools and resources to achieve success!”

As an educator, mentor, and training specialist, Chavous brings a range of skills to the position, as well as a dedication to community work.

“I am excited to be joining the SCALE team and to begin the work,” Chavous said. “People are working across the nation to advance health and well-being. They are doing amazing and often innovative work. My goal is to not only engage them and introduce them to the SCALE tools, but to connect them as a national network to advance the work of both CJA and the 100 Million Healthier Lives campaign.”

About SCALE

SCALE – Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation – is funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and targets a collaboration of four organizations who have aligned interest in the promotion of community engagement around health — the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Communities Joined in Action, Community Solutions, and the Network for

Regional Health Care Improvement. For additional information on SCALE please visit:  
<https://www.100mlives.org/initiatives/#scale2>

#### About Communities Joined in Action

Communities Joined in Action (CJA) is a private, nonprofit membership organization of 150 community health collaboratives from across the nation. Members are committed to improving health, access to care, and the elimination of health disparities. The mission of CJA is to mobilize and support community coalitions and stakeholders to achieve better health for all people at less cost. CJA supports its members through the dissemination of emergent national models, access to technical resources, peer-mentor support, and sharing best practices. For more information on CJA, please visit:

<http://www.cjaonline.net/>

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