The [Connecticut Healthcare Data Collaborative (CHDC)](#) will jumpstart affordable broadband internet access across the state by expanding healthcare data mining, a major component of Connecticut's economic future

September 7, 2017

["Precision medicine and its potential is an economic driver in the state."](#)

The OCC and State Broadband Office have been an active member of the statutory Connecticut Healthcare Data Collaborative (CHDC) since its first legislative enabling statute, enacted in the 2016 legislative session. The CHDC operates under the aegis of the statutory (2015) [Commission on Economic Competitiveness](#) (CEC) which seeks to analyze the implications of state tax policy on state business and industry and to develop policies that promote economic growth. *See* [video](#) of a presentation by the CHDC to the CEC of the results of its first year of meetings.

The OCC/SBO was asked to join the CHDC's first steering committee over a year ago to design the process to be followed and help enlist the industry players composing a working group of experts to attempt to exploit the economic promise of precision medicine and personalized health find a private sector healthcare data project that could create substantial statewide business development and jobs creation. Since the emphasis of the CHDC relates to the data generation and needs of the healthcare industry in this state, the OCC/SBO serves to provide an independent voice about best practices to boost the input/output of the massive amounts of data needed to efficiently mine that data for economic development and jobs creation.

The CHDC exists specifically to examine the needs of large and small state businesses and industries engaged in the healthcare field (e.g., insurers, healthcare delivery organizations such as hospitals, medical practices, and research universities and private organizations. The CHDC will make policy recommendations to the CEC concerning potential healthcare projects that the members of the collaboration agree will boost their collective and individual ability to maintain economic competitiveness and the CHDC will offer legislative recommendations that promote the growth and prosperity of the state's healthcare business and industry.

In a series of working group meetings over the last year, the CHDC has begun to building on the diverse research and practical applications in economic development support for the extensive work by many Connecticut healthcare institution (insurance providers, healthcare delivery organizations, and researchers) on large-scale microbiome initiatives. The CHDC is dedicated to enabling and supporting collaboration among numerous academic institutions and international organizations, many of which are located in Connecticut or in peer and neighboring states (e.g., New York, California), and this group is emerging as a driving force in the development of the robust Connecticut bioscience sector.

In the 2017 legislative session, the CT General Assembly made permanent the Commission on Economic Competitiveness's (CEC) Connecticut Health Data Collaborative working group (CHDC), which was created by SA 16-20 to examine several subjects related to digital infrastructure.
https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/SUM/2017SUM00085-R01SB-00968-SUM.htm

The 2017 act charges the CHDC with new responsibilities related to precision medicine and expands its membership by adding the state's health information technology officer. The act also requires the CHDC to annually report, beginning by January 1, 2018, its findings and recommendations to the CEC and the Commerce, Energy and Technology, and Public Health committees. The CHDC responsibilities include:

1. initiatives to support research and development for precision medicine and personalized health;

2. economic growth initiatives for in-state businesses working in bioscience, biopharma, biotech, genomics, clinomics, epigenomics, pharmacogenomics, the microbiome field, and related fields;

3. health data access, privacy, and security initiatives; and

4. advancements in health data and population health to promote efficient and innovative platforms for collecting health data to understand the interplay between genetic, behavioral, and environmental factors in disease incidence.

Please visit OCC's website.