



Case Study



Cambridge Health Alliance Strengthens Community Ties Through BLEND Localization

Industry
Healthcare

Language Pairs
53

Services
Human expert translation
Localization orchestration
platform
Desktop publishing



About Cambridge Health Alliance

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) is a vibrant, innovative health system dedicated to providing equity and excellence for everyone, every time. With over 140,000 patients in Boston’s metro-north region, CHA is proud to offer the healthcare people need most in their lives. Key clinical services include primary care, behavioral health, emergency care, surgery and specialty care, hospital care, maternity, and state-of-the-art testing services. For more information, visit challiance.org.



A Thriving, Long-Term Language Partnership

CHA’s partnership with BLEND spans nearly 10 years and was first driven by the former OneHourTranslation’s expansive language offering and easy, online ordering process, one of the earliest in the translation industry. Following thousands of projects, and millions upon millions of words translated, a new service benefit has emerged as essential to CHA’s current localization team and language strategy, one refined since the company’s rebrand as BLEND three years ago—direct access to their team of linguists and translators.

“The translators collaborate tremendously by allowing us to have an open dialogue on projects that need to be completed in a month’s time,” said Ingrid Gamez, Supervisor Multicultural Affair and Patient Services at CHA, on a recent campaign. “It was lengthy, and we needed desktop publishing assistance to maintain the original layout in English. We felt supported and listened to. The back and forth on last-minute changes was received well and we got replies if not on the same day, early morning the next day.”

Since the BLEND rebrand in 2021, CHA has averaged 1,700 projects per year.

Spotlight Project— Implementation Strategy Report

While CHA localizes content in dozens of language pairs, several key projects focus on their top three—Latin American Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. One such recent project was their Implementation Strategy Report, a collaborative community effort to improve health and wellbeing. After identifying community needs and prioritizing action, CHA finalized a set of goals and activities to address the needs of these communities most effectively, including building equity principles and developing improved communication and information sharing.

Área de enfoque 1 | Vivienda: asequibilidad, estabilidad y seguridad

La vivienda es un tema de equidad en salud.

El deterioro de la infraestructura, la mala ventilación, las plagas y el moho, la pintura con plomo y otras toxinas de interiores afectan directamente nuestra **salud física** a través del **envenenamiento, las lesiones y la exposición a agentes infecciosos como bacterias y virus.**

Las malas condiciones de vivienda, los altos costos, la violación de los derechos de los inquilinos y la inestabilidad pueden causar **estrés severo**, que afecta nuestra **salud mental.**

El desplazamiento, ya sea por desalojo o por verse obligado a mudarse de manera informal, puede afectar nuestras **redes sociales, la cohesión comunitaria y la estabilidad económica de nuestras familias y comunidades.**

Dirigir ingresos limitados hacia costos de vivienda en lugar de alimentos, atención médica o educación y cuidado infantil puede tener **consecuencias para nuestra salud nutricional, nuestra capacidad para acceder a atención médica, nuestras oportunidades laborales y el desarrollo de los niños.**

Fuente: Borden et al. (2011). *How Does Housing Affect Health? Project Woodlawn*. *Health Affairs*, 30(4), e6. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0019999.
 Cited in: *Cambridge Health Alliance. (2021). **Equidad en Salud: Construyendo Salud Comunitaria**. Taylor & Francis, *Measuring Our Health As One: The Language Health Affairs*.*

Enfoques estratégicos regionales

El Análisis del Panorama y el Círculo de Estrategia sugirieron tracción en torno a un conjunto de estrategias orientadas a **fortalecer la infraestructura comunitaria**. Esto llevó a definir **5 enfoques estratégicos regionales**. Estos enfoques incorporan los Principios de Equidad, son aplicables a todas las Metas y Objetivos a través de estrategias específicas y son aplicables a todas las comunidades. Estos enfoques estratégicos regionales se presentaron al CAB y guiarán el trabajo del Equipo de Mejora de la Salud (HIT) de CHA en toda nuestra región.

Conectar las voces de la comunidad con el cambio estatal, local e institucional

Fortalecer los recursos y la capacidad de organización comunitaria

Incorporar los principios de equidad en los esfuerzos por hacer crecer los programas y mejorar los sistemas y procesos

Desarrollar mejores procesos para la comunicación y el intercambio de información

Conectar los conocimientos del programa y del proceso con las implicaciones para el cambio de políticas

Including the usual text localization but also the added creative element of desktop publishing support with design and infographic conversion, the teams worked hand in hand to ensure perfect language accuracy, continuity in visual presentation, and swift turnaround of the critical messaging.

The Last Word—Accuracy, Praise & Connectedness

Speaking to the results of the Implementation Strategy Report, Gamez had this to say:



“The final product came as a beautiful equivalent of the original one with the cultural localization needed for the respective communities we serve at CHA. We were praised by the Population Health Department for the accuracy and quality shown on the three translations.”

“This work could not have been possible without the patience and hard work of the translation and tech support team at BLEND. We are proud to collaborate and work hard alongside our language partners to bring the Health Information to our LEP patients.”

“Always grateful and appreciative for all the dedication and improvements made to facilitate our demanding high volume of translations. BLEND is an amazing partner to work with and our collaboration will only get stronger from here on, we are sure of that.”



About BLEND Localization Services for Healthcare

Combining professional linguists with subject matter expertise with AI translation innovations, numerous integrations with essential enterprise platforms and tools, and dedicated service teams, BLEND enables healthcare providers, clinics, and health systems to deliver accurate, timely localized messaging to patient and partners in 120 languages. From clinical content to community messaging, marketing, and training materials, BLEND is trusted to make text, Web, eLearning, and multimedia content more accessible and impactful all over the world.

