

For Immediate Release

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Velatura and National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved Announce Strategic Partnership to Tackle Health Disparities

Collaboration aims to improve access and outcomes for underserved communities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 26, 2024 — In a move aiming to improve healthcare access for countless Americans, [Velatura Public Benefit Corporation](#) (Velatura) and the [National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved](#) (NHIT[®]) today announced a multi-year collaboration focused on combating health disparities across 18 states, US territories and beyond. This partnership, unveiled at the ViVE conference in Los Angeles, leverages the power of the NHIT Data Fusion Center and social determinants of health (SDOH) data to positively impact underserved communities.

This partnership exemplifies a dedicated effort to transform the utilization of the NHIT Data Fusion Center and SDOH data to make a significant impact on underserved communities. Through their collective expertise in data sharing, interoperability and SDOH, NHIT and Velatura aim to:

- **Improve data accessibility and utilization:** The partnership will enhance access, interpretation, and application of SDOH data through interoperable platforms, empowering care teams with deeper insights into the needs of underserved communities.
- **Enhance care coordination and quality:** Shared data will be used to improve the coordination, accessibility, affordability and overall quality of care for underserved communities.
- **Develop innovative solutions:** NHIT and Velatura will combine their strengths to develop and implement innovative solutions that address specific challenges facing our most vulnerable populations.

"This collaboration is a game-changer for our organizations." **Luis Belen, Chief Executive Officer of NHIT**, conveyed his excitement for the strategic partnership, affirming, "By pooling our resources, we ensure that SDOH data is harnessed for social good, significantly impacting the lives of our most vulnerable communities."

"Effectively addressing health disparities requires a collaborative approach that leverages diverse expertise and resources." said **Tim Pletcher, President and CEO of Velatura**. "By combining our expertise in data sharing, interoperability and social determinants of health, NHIT and Velatura are working together to develop and implement innovative solutions that improve healthcare access, quality and affordability for underserved communities. This partnership represents a shared commitment to building a more equitable and healthy future for all and Velatura is incredibly proud to be part of it."



At the core of this partnership lies the empowerment of underserved communities. Together, NHIT and Velatura will actively seek to eliminate obstacles that prevent underserved populations from accessing quality healthcare and enhance the overall health and well-being of individuals in underserved communities.

This collaboration marks a significant step forward in addressing health disparities and enhancing the overall health and well-being of underserved populations. NHIT and Velatura's combined expertise and commitment to health equity position them to make a meaningful and positive difference in the lives of those most in need.

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About NHIT

NHIT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization on a mission to provide equitable access to health technologies and to make sure that these technologies address the needs of underserved communities and communities of color. Since its founding in 2008, NHIT has worked to advance health equity and economic viability on issues such as broadband access, electronic health records, precision medicine, consumer health applications and disaster resiliency. NHIT has collaborated with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Tyler Technologies to launch the NHIT Data Fusion Center, which tackles and translates social determinants of health (SDoH) data into actionable insights.

About Velatura

The Velatura Public Benefit Corporation (Velatura) represents a highly experienced team of nationally recognized Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE) experts and senior consultants. Velatura is an industry leader in providing HIT and HIE consulting, development, implementation, and operations services in states across the nation. Our unique methodologies and solutions foster greater alignment between public and private sectors. We understand the industry big picture while focusing on delivering practical solutions to real problems.

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