



Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota

A brief introduction to Community Health Workers (CHWs)



What is a CHW?

American Public Health Association (APHA)

The CHWSD has adopted the American Public Health Association's (APHA) definition of a Community Health Worker (CHW):

“A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.”

- APHA 2020¹



Community Health Worker Titles

Additional/Alternative Titles

- Case Work Aide
- Community Care Coordinator
- Community Health Advisor
- Community Health Educator
- Community Health Promoter
- Community Health Representative
- Community Health Worker
- Community Outreach Worker
- Consejera/Animadora (counselor/organizer)
- Environmental Health Aide
- Family Service Worker
- HIV Peer Counselor
- Lactation Consultant/Specialist
- Lay Health Advisor
- Lead Abatement Education Specialist
- Maternal/Infant Health Outreach Specialist
- Neighborhood Health Advisor
- Outreach Specialist
- Patient Navigator
- Peer Educator
- Promotor (a) de Salud (health promoter)
- Public Health Aide
- And many, many more titles

Example: Opioid Prevention Specialist

CHW Scope of Work

South Dakota-specific²

Health system navigation and resource coordination, including helping a patient find providers to receive a service, helping a patient make an appointment for a service, arranging transportation to a medical appointment, attending an appointment with the patient for a medical service, and helping a patient find other relevant community resources such as a support group.

Health promotion and coaching, including providing information or education to patients that makes positive contributions to their health status, such as cessation of tobacco use, reduction in the misuse of alcohol or drugs, improvement in nutrition, improvement of physical fitness, family planning, control of stress, pregnancy and infant care including prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Health education to teach or promote methods and measures that have been proven effective in avoiding illness and/or lessening its effects, such as immunizations, control of high blood pressure, control of sexually transmittable disease, prevention and control of diabetes, control of toxic agents, occupational safety and health, and accident prevention. The content of the education must be consistent with established or recognized healthcare standards.



CHW Reimbursement

SD DSS Medicaid CHW Services

Qualifying Conditions

- Chronic Disease
- Substance Use Disorder
- Tobacco Use
- See full list online

Qualifying Barriers

- Geographic Distance
- Lack of Phone
- Language/Communication Barriers

Visit www.chwsd.org/reimbursement/ for more information about CHW Reimbursement through South Dakota Medicaid



Introductory Webinar

Learn more about Community Health Workers and the CHWSD by viewing the introductory webinar. This webinar provides an overview of CHWs, the CHWSD, and the current and future work to promote, develop, and sustain the CHW profession in South Dakota.

<https://chwsd.org/introductory-webinar/>



CHW Toolkit (w/FREE CEUs)



- **Launching November 2020**
- **4-Module Toolkit** to learn more
- **Includes 2 CEUs at NO COST**
 - CME
 - CNE
 - Social Work
 - And more.

Contact Information

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