IDPH
Illinois Department of Public Health

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS' CAREER PATHWAYS START HERE

A ***meaningful*** career.
Multiple paths ***forward.***



Solid career pathways are available with CHW certification now available.

Illinois Public Health Association IPHA

Community Health Workers
Help. Guide. Thrive.

Learn more about CHW certification and next steps:
HELPGUIDETHRIVE.ORG

Entry Into the Certified CHW Workforce

Many CHWs begin with:

- Lived or shared community experience
- Volunteer, outreach, or advocacy roles
- Community-based or nonprofit work
- Entry-level CHW or outreach positions

Professional Development & Certification

CHW certification is now available in Illinois and can help:

- Recognize skills, training, and experience
- Support consistency across employers
- Strengthen professional identity

Certification can support greater access to training, advancement, and long-term career growth.

Career Growth Opportunities

With experience, training and certification, CHWs can move into roles such as:

- Senior Community Health Worker
- Lead CHW / CHW Supervisor
- Program Coordinator or Manager
- Training or Workforce Development Specialist
- Community Engagement or Outreach Manager
- Public Health or Care Coordination Roles

Career paths vary by organization and sector.

Specialization Areas

CHWs may work in areas such as:

- Chronic disease management
- Maternal and child health
- Behavioral health
- Housing, food, and social services
- Violence prevention
- Immigrant and refugee health

Where CHWs Work

Career pathways exist across:

- Community-based organizations
- Health departments
- Clinics and hospitals
- Schools and social service agencies
- Public health and human services programs
- Court system

Why This Career Matters

A career as a CHW offers:

- Meaningful community impact
- Opportunities for leadership
- Growing recognition and support
- A pathway within public health and health care systems

Visit HelpGuideThrive.org for more information

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