



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Trusted Connections.
Healthier Communities.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are front-line public health professionals who build trusted relationships and guide people through health, social, and community services.



Learn more about CHW certification and next steps:

HELPGUIDETHRIVE.ORG

Why CHWs Matter

Everyone needs help navigating in life. CHWs are the trusted guides who make that journey easier.

- Strengthen trust between communities and health systems
- Improve access to care and preventive services
- Support better health outcomes
- Address social drivers of health

What Do Community Health Workers Do?

CHWs support individuals and families by:

- Connecting people to health care, social services, and resources
- Providing health education and outreach
- Supporting care coordination and follow-up
- Helping reduce barriers like transportation, language, and access

Where Do CHWs Work?

CHWs serve in many settings, including:

- Community-based organizations
- Health departments
- Clinics and hospitals
- Schools and social service agencies
- Faith-based and neighborhood organizations
- Court systems

Who Can Be a CHW?

CHWs may be:

- Community members with lived experience
- Trusted leaders
- People passionate about helping others
- Individuals interested in a meaningful public health career

Becoming a CHW in Illinois

Illinois is establishing certification guidelines to support and recognize the CHW workforce.

Certification helps:

- Strengthen professional opportunities
- Support workforce development
- Improve consistent care coordination practices statewide