



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS' CAREER PATHWAYS START HERE

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



Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a vital role in connecting people to care, services, and resources. As Illinois prepares for statewide CHW certification, solid career pathways are emerging.



Learn more about CHW certification and next steps:

[HELPGUIDETHRIVE.ORG](https://helpguidethrive.org)

Entry Into the Certified CHW Workforce

Professional Development & Certification

(Coming Soon)

Career Growth Opportunities

Specialization Areas

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

Illinois is working toward a CHW certification process that is expected to:

- 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.

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.

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

Learn More & Stay Informed

Visit HelpGuideThrive.org for more information

