



Community Health Worker Definition

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are **frontline public health workers** who are ***trusted*** members of and/or have an ***unusually close understanding of the community served***. This trusting relationship enables CHWs 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. CHWs also ***build individual and community capacity*** by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

American Public Health Association, 2009

Note: Submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics for use in description of Standard Occupational Classification #21-1094 – Community Health Worker.