



Proposed Voluntary Certification Process for Community Health Workers

What CHWs need to know to become certified in Arizona

AzCHOW

Arizona Community Health Workers Association

The Arizona Community Health Workers (AzCHOW) Training Center works closely with key stakeholders, community-based and health care organizations throughout the state to ensure Community Health Workers (CHWs) are recognized and certified as a strong professional workforce in Arizona. Although CHWs go by many titles (*promotora*, peer health specialist, patient navigator, and community health representative), Community Health Worker (CHW) is the official title recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Labor. To ensure the integrity of the CHW workforce, AzCHOW has developed a voluntary certification path for CHWs in Arizona.

Why Get Certified?

- Certification documents that a person has received training in the required core competencies of the workforce
- Certification prepares the CHW workforce to be knowledgeable and ethical
- Certification promotes the recognition of the value that CHWs bring to the health care system
- Certification can increase the potential for employment opportunities

Who Can Get Certified?

Community Health Workers who work or volunteer in community service organizations and or health systems such as: community health centers, community-based organizations, hospitals, schools, churches and community centers are eligible for certification.

Voluntary CHW Certification Requirements

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18 years or older and have a physical address in Arizona*

Documentation of 2500 hours of paid or volunteer CHW experience in the past two years

OR

Completion of an AzCHOW approved CHW training curriculum and 1000 hours of paid or volunteer CHW experience.

Completion of AzCHOW training center CHW Core Competency Training/Assessment (4 hours)

Two professional letters of recommendation

\$100.00 certification fee (includes 4-hour CHW Core Competency Training/Assessment)

Voluntary Certification requires renewal every 2 years (\$50 fee for renewal). Eight hours of ongoing training per year must be documented for renewal.

*All applicants must have a personal email address

For more information on the certification process or on AzCHOW certified training programs, visit: www.azchow.org

Or Contact: *Floribella Redondo, President, AzCHOW Association (928) 366-3016* floribella@azchow.org

AzCHOWs Training Center Mission:
Represent, capacitate and develop a strong professional CHW workforce in Arizona