



# UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

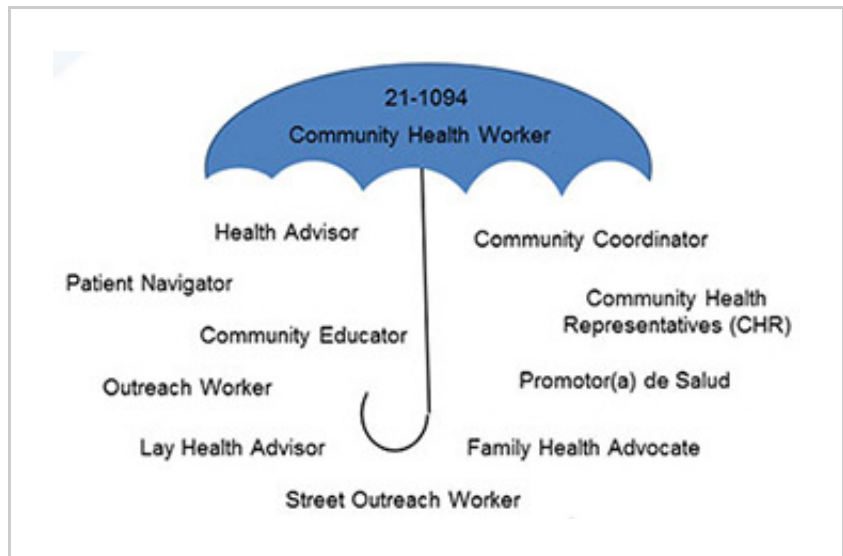
[Maryland Area Health Education Center \(MAHEC\)](#)

[Research Centers \(General\)](#)[Maryland Area Health Education Center \(MAHEC\)](#)Community Health Worker Training Institute

## Community Health Worker Training Institute

The Maryland Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) is a Community Health Worker (CHW) Technical Assistance, Training, and Support Center in the State of Maryland. The AHECs have trained CHWs working across the state in hospitals, health departments and within their own AHEC centers.

According to the American Public Health Association, a community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. CHWs are also known as community health advocates, lay health educators, community health representatives, peer health promoters, community health outreach workers, and in Spanish, promotores de salud.



The use of CHWs in Maryland is rapidly increasing with CHWs being employed in all healthcare settings. CHWs have the role of connecting health care consumers and providers while promoting health among populations that traditionally lacked access to healthcare and/or held a distrust of the healthcare system.

## Core Competencies of CHW Training

The Maryland Workgroup on Workforce Development of Community Health Workers (2015), that included

representatives appointed from AHECs, agreed upon the following 11 Core Competencies of CHW training:

1. Effective oral and written communication skills
  2. Cultural competency
  3. Knowledge of local resources and system navigation
  4. Advocacy and community capacity building skills
  5. Care coordination skills
  6. Teaching skills to promote healthy behavior change
  7. Outreach methods and strategies
  8. Ability to bridge needs and identify resources
  9. Understanding of public health concepts and health literacy
  10. Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues
  11. Ability to use and understand health information technology
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## CHW Training Curriculum

The Maryland AHEC CHW training curriculum encompasses 160 hours recommended by the [Maryland Workgroup for Workforce Development](#) for the Training of Tier II (Certified CHW); 120 hours will be didactic classroom training that includes group work, role play, and homework built into the training time.

After didactic training, the CHWs apply learning in 40 hours of an employment based field practicum. The MAHEC curriculum includes skills based on the recommendations of CHWs 11 core competencies (above) from the Maryland Workgroup as well as the competencies identified in the national C3 Project.

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## Why Choose Us?

- Our curriculum is aligned with the 11 core competencies recommended by the Maryland Workgroup for Workforce Development of Community Health Workers as well as the competencies identified in the national C3 Project.
- Since 2013 our centers have trained over 170 CHWs who are employed in health departments, hospitals, community-based agencies, AHECs and many others.



**Community Health Workers trained by the ESAHEC**

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## Contact Us

For more information or to schedule a CHW Training, contact us at:

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