

CHWs Bridge Individuals, Communities, and Systems

Community health workers (including Promotores, Community Health Representatives, and more than 90 different [work titles](#)) are frontline public health workers who have strong connections to the communities they serve. This trusting relationship enables CHWs to bridge clinical, behavioral, and social services to the community. They improve access, quality, and cultural competence of services. 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.

Over 60 years of research demonstrates evidence of CHWs' effectiveness:

- In multiple roles to address [food and nutrition security and social support](#) as advocates, care coordinators, case managers, and system navigators.
- A return of \$2.47 for every \$1 invested, saving Medicaid \$4,200 per beneficiary each year in a [randomized control trial](#) of one CHW program.
- In rural settings in [TX](#), [SD](#), and [AL](#).
- In the management and improvement of health conditions including and improvement of health conditions including [asthma](#), [hypertension](#), [HIV](#), [diabetes](#), [mental health](#) conditions, and [chronic diseases](#).

Despite growing recognition of the critical role of CHWs in the U.S., funding for the workforce has remained precarious and inadequate. Like past boom-and-bust cycles, bipartisan investments in CHWs through the COVID-19 response have reached a funding cliff. Many CHWs have already lost their jobs or are [concerned](#) about future employment. There is a need for more sustainable CHW financing options and awareness among policymakers to support CHWs and their ongoing work to promote community health and well-being.

Support the CHW Access Act

The Community Health Worker Access Act would increase access to CHW services for Medicare and Medicaid enrollees to improve whole-person, coordinated care. The bill would improve reimbursement for the CHW workforce in Medicare and support their integration and promote their sustainability in Medicaid. Covering CHW services in Medicare and Medicaid can control costs while improving care coordination, culturally responsive care, connections to services, and other outcomes to promote health.

Support the CHW Awareness Week Resolution

National CHW Awareness Week is a national campaign developed by the National Association of Community Health Workers and held annually at the end of August to celebrate and commemorate CHWs. In 2023, Congressional resolutions were introduced in both chambers to recognize this awareness week (S.Res. 381 and H.Res. 722). Please co-sponsor the upcoming 2024 resolution to recognize August 26-30, 2024, as National CHW Awareness Week.

Support Community Health Workers

- Co-sponsor the CHW Access Act
- Co-sponsor the CHW Awareness Week Resolution:
 - Senate: Contact Kate_Samuelson@help.senate.gov for more info or to co-sponsor
 - House: Contact Caroline.Drury@mail.house.gov for the CHW Access Act and Jamie.Truax@mail.house.gov for CHW Awareness Week Resolution