

PRESS RELEASE

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National Association of Community Health Workers and Partners In Health United States Host 3rd Annual CHW Capitol Hill Visits

(March 7, 2025) **Washington, D.C.** - On March 11 and 12, over 100 community health workers (CHWs), allies, and advocates from across the country will gather on Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress and legislative staff during the third annual CHW Capitol Hill Visits. The event, featuring a Hill Day, CHW rally, and Congressional briefing, will be hosted jointly by National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) and the U.S. arm of Partners In Health (PIH-US) to bring critical awareness to the community health worker profession and workforce.

“Community Health Workers are everyday people who are doing incredible things in the lives of individuals and families.” says Denise Octavia Smith, CHW and Executive Director of NACHW. “The commitment of CHWs to help people get and stay healthy comes from our own personal experiences of having poor health or barriers to living our best lives. We are trusted professionals who live, play, and pray in the same communities where we serve.”

CHWs are essential members of the health care system, bridging gaps in care, building trust, and improving health outcomes—particularly in rural and underserved communities. By providing preventive and community-based care, CHWs help manage chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and asthma, ultimately reducing health care costs. Despite their growing recognition, CHWs face persistent challenges with inadequate and unstable funding. The 2025 Capitol Hill Visits will help bring these issues to Congress, calling on lawmakers to secure long-term sustainability for the CHW workforce. With Congress considering cuts to essential health programs like Medicaid, which funds CHW services in many states, it is crucial now more than ever to protect and elevate the role of CHWs in ensuring access to quality care.

“As Congress considers the future of vital health services, it’s more important than ever to raise our voices and advocate for the protection and expansion of CHW programs,” says Katie Bollbach, Executive Director of PIH-US. “It’s essential we ensure that CHWs continue to have the resources to provide care and support to the communities that need them most.”

During the Hill Day, advocates will urge members of Congress to protect Medicaid from cuts and to support the Community Health Worker Access Act, which would improve access to CHW services through Medicaid and Medicare. Additionally, they will encourage lawmakers to support a resolution recognizing National CHW Awareness Week, highlighting the vital role CHWs play in advancing community health.

For media inquiries, please contact Rebecca Gifford at rgifford@pih.org.

About National Association of Community Health Workers

The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) was founded in April 2019 after several years of planning and organizing by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and allies across the United States. NACHW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership-driven organization with a mission to unify CHWs across geography, ethnicity, sector and experience to support communities to achieve health, equity and social justice. www.NACHW.org

About Partners In Health United States

PIH United States (PIH-US) is the U.S. arm of Partners In Health, a nonprofit, social justice organization. PIH was founded more than 30 years ago in Haiti and now works in 11 countries around the world, accompanying governments and communities to build stronger health systems and improve access to high quality care. PIH-US works shoulder to shoulder with public health departments, community organizations and advocates to achieve their long-term visions for healthier communities and more just systems. Learn more at www.pih.org/united-states.