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# NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER AWARENESS WEEK

NACHW  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS PARTNERING WITH SYSTEMS TOWARD EQUITY

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted frontline public health professionals with deep ties to their communities. With over [60 years of evidence](#) demonstrating their effectiveness, CHWs are vital connectors and liaisons between people and service systems.

### CHWs' Demonstrated Impact: Health Equity, Health Outcomes, and Cost Savings

#### Health Equity

- CHWs improve access in [rural](#) "care deserts" and among communities facing language, cultural, and transportation barriers.
- CHWs are trusted messengers who can increase uptake of preventive services, including [vaccination rates](#) from **44% to 76% in one year** during COVID-19.

#### Improved Health Outcomes

- [Chronic disease management](#): CHW interventions in diabetes care improve A1C, cholesterol, and blood pressure outcomes, especially when paired with nurse care managers.
- [Hospital readmissions](#): Individualized CHW action plans cut 30-day readmissions from **40% to 15.2%**.

#### Cost Savings and ROI:

- [Maryland](#): **\$2,245 saved per patient** annually; total savings **\$262,080 for 117 patients**.
- [Kentucky](#): **\$11.20 ROI for every \$1 spent** on CHW training.

Check out the [What Works Toolkit Series](#) to see more CHW-led innovation in action!

### What Gets in the Way?

Despite their contributions to community health and wellbeing, **CHWs are among the lowest-paid public health workers**, often funded by short-term grants. Inconsistent CHW-healthcare system integration and lack of long-term funding undermine CHW impact.

### Health Systems Working in Solidarity with CHWs in Authentic Partnership

When healthcare systems and CHWs collaborate as equal partners toward a shared goal of health equity, they work together to address social determinants of health and improve community health and wellbeing. Health care cost savings and ROI are welcome side effects of authentic partnerships between CHWs and health systems.

- Healthcare employers can contract with local and state CHW Networks and Associations for CHW-related technical assistance services.
- Support NACHW to provide national support for CHWs across the US.

Check out [Strengthening Public Health with CHWs](#) to learn more about what you can do to build healthier communities with CHWs!

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