



Virginia CHW News & Updates

VIRGINIA CHW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL EXTENDS CHW CERTIFICATION LEGACY PERIOD THROUGH 2021

During its April 28, 2021 meeting, the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council approved the Committee on Curriculum, Training, and Certification's recommendation to extend the legacy period through the remainder of 2021. The legacy period had expired April 1, 2021. The extension of the legacy period through 2021 will be the final one.

CHWs may submit their legacy applications for certification to the Virginia Certification Board. Information regarding submissions can be found at this [VCB LINK](#).

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Virginia Department of Health Releases Initial Summary of CHW Survey

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has released select information from the CHW survey it conducted during the past winter. VDH representatives plan to present more detailed results in the future. Initial results for select questions are listed below.

- There were 201 survey respondents.
- Top respondent position titles were Peer Support Specialist (25.6%) and Community Health Worker (19%).
- 43.9% of respondents were required to have specific, CHW training for their position.
- For respondents required to have specific, CHW training, 73% received that training from their employer.
- 65.5% of respondents were members of a multidisciplinary team.
- 26.5% of respondents were employed in non-faith based, community organizations.
- A majority of respondents were not required to have formal education beyond a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).
- 20% of respondents indicated that their position required a bachelor's degree.
- 5% of respondents indicated they experienced barriers to becoming certified with the main obstacles being finances and time.
- A majority of respondents had between 1 to 50 clients.

VDH has plans to distribute a CHW-employer survey in the near future.

IPHI Collaborating with the Virginia CHW Association and Virginia Department of Health to Develop a Statewide CHW Registry



Focus on the valuable role community health workers play in reaching underserved and vulnerable populations and health equity issues is increasing. Also, health systems and community-based organizations are discovering the value of CHWs in health care teams to achieve greater health outcomes for patients. In Virginia and across the country, there is still a lack of crucial information about CHWs. IPHI is collaborating with the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia CHW Association to develop a statewide online, voluntary CHW registry.

Registries maintain accurate and reliable data about a professional workforce like CHWs. The planned registry will help identify position titles under the larger umbrella of "community health worker." The registry will also identify localities where CHWs are working and focus areas of their work. Information from the registry will help support CHW research that can help the workforce by better understanding CHW needs and supporting policies that help grow and sustain the CHW workforce across Virginia.

Focus groups are already being conducted to get input into what information the registry should capture and other features the online platform can offer, and information about CHWs. **A priority in developing the registry will be respecting the privacy and confidentiality of CHW personal data in the registry.**

The registry is scheduled to be published by July 1, 2021. Stay tuned for more information!

CHW Webinar and Online Resources

Webinars on Community Health Workers and Addressing Diabetes Prevention and Management

IPHI has presented two webinars on the use of CHWs and diabetes prevention and promotion. The first webinar addressed social determinants of health and the use of CHWs. The second webinar discussed the use of CHWs to achieve health equity among people with diabetes. A third presentation will be presented later in the spring of 2021 on financing CHW programs that focus on diabetes prevention and management programs. Persons can view the previous webinars by going to the Council's webpage at www.chwva.org. There you will find links on the home page to the programs.

Research & Opinion Corner

Community Health Workers Reduce Rehospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits for Low-Socioeconomic Urban Patients With Heart Failure

"CHWs are associated with reduced rehospitalizations, ED visits, and inpatient costs in low-socioeconomic, urban, minority patients with HF. CHWs may be a cost-effective method to reduce health care utilization

and improve outcomes for this population."

[Go to the Article](#)