



## Virginia CHW News & Updates

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### **VIRGINIA CHW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REOPENS CHW CERTIFICATION LEGACY PERIOD UNTIL APRIL 1, 2021**

On Wednesday, October 28, 2020 the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council approved reopening the legacy period for CHW certification. The legacy period is reopened effective immediately through April 1, 2021. After April 1 the Council will consider extending the legacy period to a new date.

The legacy period is being reopened due to the impact of COVID-19 and relatedly, the lack of training programs submitting their curriculum for review and approval by the Virginia Certification Board.

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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## Webinar for CHWs on Fighting the Flu this Season



Getting a flu shot is more important than ever this year. ImmunizeVA, Virginia's statewide immunization coalition, invites all Community Health Workers to attend this free Flu Vaccine 101 training on November 12. In this training you'll learn not only the basics of the flu and the flu shot but also critical communication skills to support you in talking to your clients about getting the flu shot.

Date: Thursday, November 12  
Time: 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Register [Here](#).



## COVID-19 in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Health is constantly updating its COVID-19 resource and tracking website at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/> Please continue to visit the site for the latest information and guidance.

## CHW Workforce Development Council Adopts Strategic Plan through June 2022

The Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council adopted a strategic plan through June 2022 during its October 28, 2020 meeting. The plan was the work of the Council's Strategic Plan Workgroup. The workgroup developed the plan over five meetings. The plan will assist the Council's three committees in setting their work agendas through June 2022. The plan's goals include, "Demonstrate increased awareness of Community Health Workers and programs", and "Identify existing financing strategies for sustaining CHW programs in Virginia and expand successful strategies." Each goal has objectives, action steps, and evaluation measures. The complete plan can be accessed at this [link](#).



## Council Adds Age Limit of 18 for CHW Certification Requirements

The Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council adopted a age limit for persons applying for CHW Certification. This requirement was adopted after a survey was

distributed to CHWs and CHW stakeholders. CHWs represented 88% of the respondents to the survey. This requirement does not prevent persons younger than 18 years of age from pursuing other certification requirements or performing roles of a CHW under the title of "Community Health Worker".

## 2021 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule

[Here](#)



### CHW and CHW Employer Survey Update

The Virginia Department of Health in collaboration with the Virginia CHW Association and the Institute for Public Health Innovation is nearing completion of a first draft of a survey to be distributed to CHWs and CHW employers. The survey will be available online later in the fall and its results will be instrumental in supporting Council efforts to better understand characteristics of CHWs and CHW programs and to identify issues impacting CHW programs. **Help identify CHWs and CHW employers who should receive the survey by letting IPHI know at [cnyc@institutephi.org](mailto:cnyc@institutephi.org).**

### Virginia CHW Association Offering Virginia CHWs Chronic Disease "Toolkit"

The Virginia Community Health Worker Association (VACHWA) is pleased to offer a CHW Toolkit to community health workers (CHWs) in Virginia. The kit is designed to help CHWs enrich their conversations about health and wellness and resources for diabetes and chronic disease literacy.



The toolkit is part of VACHWA's Health and Education Program sponsored by a Virginia Department of Health Innovate grant. The toolkit comes in a handy travel bag and will contain a pill dispenser, a pedometer, a magnifying glass, a glucose monitor\*, and a blood pressure monitor\* (\*items on a loaner system). **To receive a toolkit, CHWs must complete the Association's intake form that includes an online cholesterol training.** CHWs can reserve a kit [here](#).

For further information about the VACHWA Toolkit Program, please contact Marian Turk, VACHWA Outreach Coordinator, at [info@chwofva.com](mailto:info@chwofva.com).

## Virginia CHW Association Launches Interactive Map



The VACHWA has built a program directory map at <https://chwofva.com/resources-map/>. Help the Association and the CHW workforce across Virginia build a complete map by letting the Association and the CHW Workforce Development Council know about your CHW program.

## The Virginia CHW Association



The Virginia Community Health Worker Association wants to hear from all CHWs. Contact the Association by clicking on the hands logo.

## CHW Webinar and Online Resources

### Public Health Education Centers offer webinars and online training for CHWs

Are you a CHW and looking for continuing education resources? There are [ten regional training centers](#) across the United States, and all offer training and educational resources. The Centers operate within public health schools and programs. They provide specialized training for public health students and workers. The trainings focus on building technical, leadership, and scientific skills. Among the extensive training and education offerings, many are designed for CHWs.

Each Center's website is accessible regardless of what region you reside. Registration is required for online trainings. The trainings are free. There are archived webinars that may not require registration. For online trainings, the Centers offer a certificate of completion once the user completes a post-test. **Certified CHWs can submit certificates to the Virginia Certification Board as evidence for the 30 hours (over two years) of continuing education requirements for CHW recertification.**

## Research Corner: CHWs and HIV Care

### Improving Access to HIV Care Using Community Health Workers - Improving linkage to care, retention and health outcomes for people living with HIV

"Through a three-year cooperative agreement with the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB), Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs (DCHAP), the initiative titled Improving Access to Care: Using Community Health Workers to Improve Linkage and Retention in HIV Care, seeks to increase the utilization of community health workers to strengthen the health care workforce and to improve access to health care and health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority people living with HIV (PLWH)."

[Go to the Boston University School of Social Work Center for Innovation in Social Work & Health site](#)