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## Virginia CHW News & Updates

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

The Council will consider extending the legacy period beyond April 1, 2021 to a new date if recommended by the Committee on Curriculum, Training, and Certification.

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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### **All Things COVID-19**

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# IPHI to Host Webinars on the COVID-19 Vaccine and Skills to use When Talking About the Importance of Getting the Vaccine.

IPHI is hosting a two-session webinar titled "COVID-19 Vaccine 101" on **March 16 and 18**. The webinars will debunk myths regarding the COVID-19 vaccines and provide participants with skills to facilitate conversations. The March 16 webinar is "Basic overview of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines. The March 18 webinar is "Skills to use when talking to people about getting the vaccine." Both sessions begin at 12:00 noon and will conclude at 1:30 p.m. **You must attend the first webinar on March 16 to attend the March 18 webinar.**

Click this [LINK](#) to register for these important sessions.

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## CHWs and COVID Communications Survey: How has COVID-19 Impacted Your Communications with Clients?



Experienced CHWs 18 years of age and older are encouraged to take a 15-minute survey to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted communications with their clients. The information that is provided is completely anonymous. **Participants will be eligible to enter a raffle for one of ten \$25 Amazon gift cards** by providing their email address.

If you would like more information regarding the survey please contact Leah Richey at the University of Maryland at [lsrichey@umd.edu](mailto:lsrichey@umd.edu) or you can go directly to the survey [HERE](#). Please take the time to participate in this important survey!

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## CDC Offers Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit

As communities served by community-based organizations (CBOs) gain "access to vaccines to help protect against COVID-19, the CDC has designed a toolkit to help CBOs." The purpose of the toolkit is to "educate community members about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common questions and concerns." Resources include posters and flyers, messaging suggestions across media platforms, sample letters and more.



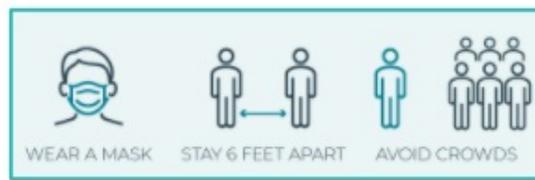
You can access to toolkit page [HERE](#) or click on the image to the right.

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## CDC Adds COVID-19 Resources for CHWs

The Centers for Disease Control has a new

site where CHWs can find COVID-19 resources to support their work and where their employers can find information to better ensure their safety in the community. [Go to the CDC Resource](#) or click image to the left.



## Temple University to Host Virtual CHW Conference, April 29th and 30th, 2021

On April 29 and 30, Temple University will host three hours of workshops each day from 9:00am - 12:30pm . You'll learn and interact with colleagues during the presentations just as you would at an in-person conference. Workshop content will cover a range of topics that will benefit the new CHW or the long-time professional.



For more information please click this [LINK](#) or click on the Temple banner.

More information will be posted as it becomes available so check the link often. You can also email Lindsay Price at [lindsay.price@temple.edu](mailto:lindsay.price@temple.edu) for additional information or to be added to Temple's communications and marketing list.



## Council Adopts Membership "Application", Reaffirms Inclusivity

During its January 27, 2021 meeting, the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council adopted the recommendations of its Membership Workgroup to "better define" the meaning of membership on the Council. The goal of the Council has always been to reflect a majority of CHW voices in decision-making while maintaining inclusion of representatives who support the expansion and sustainability of Virginia's CHW workforce. This goal was at the center of the workgroup's recommendations.

The adopted recommendations include five (5) Council membership categories. The categories are:

Community Health Worker (regardless of certification status, employment or volunteer status);

CHW Supervisor (the supervisor has day-to-day contact or responsibilities with CHWs);

CHW Employer (the organization employs or has CHW serve as volunteers but the representative to the Council does not provide day-to-day supervision);

Government Employee (the member is a local government or Commonwealth of Virginia employee and is not a CHW or CHW supervisor), and;

Advocate (the representative does not belong in one of the other four categories but desires to support the expansion and sustainability of Virginia's CHW workforce).

The application asks for additional information such as the applicant's goals in serving on the Council and whether the applicant wishes to serve on one or more of the Council's three committees. Based on the recommendation of the Virginia CHW Association, at least 51% of the participants involved in any Council decision need to be a CHW. The Council, with the input from the Virginia CHW Association will determine whether a sufficient number of CHWs were represented in any decision or whether additional effort needs to be made to include CHW input.

### Save the Date: IPHI to Host Second Webinar on Diabetes Prevention and Management and CHWs

Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. IPHI will host the second of three webinars addressing the role of CHWs in diabetes prevention and management. The March 25 webinar will focus on diabetes and health inequities among vulnerable populations. Contact [cnye@institutephi.org](mailto:cnye@institutephi.org) to add your name to the distribution list for additional information including registration.

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## Research & Opinion Corner

### **This group of workers could help turnaround quality of life -- and the economy**

"In order to emerge stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic and a year of social and economic tumult, we need to focus on bolstering public health, re-building the economy and achieving racial justice. There is one often-overlooked workforce that will be critical on all three of these fronts: **Community Health Workers** (CHWs)."

[Go to the CNN Opinion Article](#)