



Virginia CHW News & Updates

VIRGINIA CHW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CERTIFICATION LEGACY PERIOD ENDS JANUARY 1, 2022

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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IPHI Kicks Off CHWs for a Healthy Virginia

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded more than \$4.3 million to the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) and the Virginia Department of Health to expand the roles and capacity of community health workers (CHWs) in supporting COVID-19 response in Virginia and explore innovative financing strategies to help build and sustain the CHW workforce long-term. The project is titled, Community Health Workers for a Healthy Virginia (CHWs for a Healthy VA).

The CDC grant is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act of 2020. The first year of the three-year project was awarded in September 2021. The project will renew in yearly intervals based on progress and performance.

The award will serve geographic areas of Virginia with high rates of COVID-19

morbidity and mortality. The four areas are:

- Richmond/Petersburg region
- Norfolk and Portsmouth
- Pittsylvania and Danville
- Southwest Virginia communities served by the Mount Rogers Health District

Fifteen partners were selected to hire, train, and deploy a total of 29 CHWs based on rigorous criteria of location, need, and capacity. There are a number of other supporting partners for this project. The awarded partners were announced during the CHWs for a Healthy VA Kickoff Meeting on 10/21/2021.

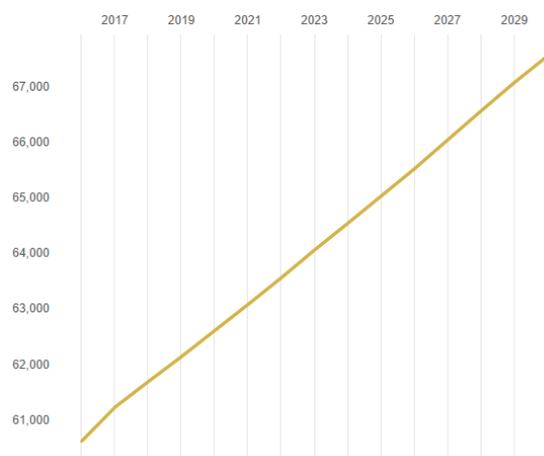
To lead this work, IPHI is pleased to welcome Valerie McAllister to the role of Senior Program Manager for CHW Strategy and Innovation. Valerie will be based in the Richmond area. Prior to joining IPHI, Valerie served as the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Clinical Community Linkage Coordinator/Community Health Specialist. In this role, she led state efforts to establish strategies, policies, and practices to support the CHW Workforce for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In response to several CDC grants received by VDH, Valerie convened stakeholders from across Virginia to develop guidelines and standards for Virginia's first CHW accreditation program. She assisted in the formation of the Virginia CHW Development Council, ensured standardization in CHW training delivery, and supported legislation that provided the state health department the authority to promulgate regulations for CHW certification and training.

HRSA Predicts Steady Demand for CHWs Through 2030

In newly released projections, the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis shows a steady and constant demand for community health workers up to 2030.

For additional information on projected trends for CHWs and other health professionals, visit the HRSA at this [link](#).



Are You a Registered Member of the CHW Workforce Development Council?

The Membership process is designed to move to a more formal, but still inclusive approach to Council



membership. The next Council meeting is October 27th.

During the July meeting, the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council approved the "Council Membership Form" for distribution. Tracking membership will ensure that there is a majority of CHW voices involved in Council decisions as spelled out in the Council's charter. Membership will also help understand the diversity of members and the experience members bring to the Council.

Persons and organizations are still able to attend Council meetings without completing the membership form. **However, only persons completing the membership form will be able to participate in Council decision-making.** At this time, membership will be "rolling" or ongoing until membership may need to be revisited to ensure a majority of CHW members are involved in making Council decisions.

If you wish to be considered a formal member of the Council and have not already done so, please complete and submit the membership form here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Va_CHW_Council.

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors Launches "Race Toward Health" Podcast Series



The NACDD has launched a podcast that examines issues of race and health. There are currently three programs in the series. The series can be accessed [here](#).

Ten Year Arizona Study Finds CHWs Improve Birthweight

Researchers from Northern Arizona University and University of Arizona conducted a study of the last 10 years on the relationship between CHWs and maternal health outcomes. The study found that pregnant women and mothers enrolled in Arizona's Health Start Program had lower rates of low birthweight and preterm newborns than women who did not participate in Health Start.

"We found that CHWs, with their vast experience, inherent wisdom and unique ability to connect with families in a safe, non-judgmental way, is a key component in reducing the risk of low, very low, and extremely low birthweight and preterm birth and could improve birth outcomes statewide, especially

among women and children at increased risk for MCH inequity.”

For more information, access the study [here](#).