



Virginia CHW News & Updates

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

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 Applies for CDC Grant: Would Expand CHW Workforce In Response to COVID-19



On May 24, 2021, IPHI submitted a grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in response to the CDC's funding opportunity titled "*Community Health Workers for Covid Response and Resilient Communities*." The grant aims to prepare CHWs to successfully engage with existing state and/or local actions to manage COVID-19 among priority populations by strengthening relevant CHW knowledge, roles, and

skills. This will be accomplished by providing additional training around COVID-19 and integrating CHWs into organizations and their care teams. Priority populations include racial and ethnic minority groups, economically disadvantaged persons, justice-involved, experiencing homelessness, or have certain underlying medical conditions that increase COVID-19 risk. Award notices are to be received by August 1, 2021 with activities starting August 31, 2021. Grant funding is for three years, and the maximum funding allowance is \$3 million per year. The CDC expects to fund up to 35 applicants under the "Implementation Ready" component of the grant IPHI applied under.

Applicants were required to use CDC COVID-19 locality data to identify target areas for grant activities. Based on CDC data, the following four target areas and localities that comprise them were selected in consultation with the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council:

Southwest Virginia: City of Bristol, Carroll County, City of Galax, Grayson County, Smyth County, Washington County, and Wythe County

Dan River Region: City of Danville, Pittsylvania County

Richmond Area: Cities of Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond, and the counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, and Prince George

Hampton Roads: Cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth

IPHI and VDH convened several weekly meetings among organizations wishing to partner on implementing the grant's activities. Virginia's application focuses on three areas: training, deployment of CHWs into organizations serving priority populations, and engagement of community members where there is an increased prevalence of COVID-19 and who are disproportionately impacted by long-standing health disparities.

Training activities will include COVID-19 education for partners who already employ CHWs and do not require any core CHW training. Other partners will receive core CHW training in addition to COVID-19 training. A training of trainers will also be a grant-related activity. The grant budget includes funding for CHW positions in each of the four target regions. Over the next several months, IPHI will work with the Council to finalize CHW placement sites using a brief Request-for-Proposal process.

Once deployed, CHWs will use a standardized screening tool and referrals to social needs programs using the Unite Us platform. Unite Us inter-connects providers through seamless integration of a referral and tracking system across communities. CHWs will also develop action plans for clients and will follow up with their clients at select time intervals to support compliance and reinforcement of the client's plan.

A strong evaluation component will support the proposed activities. The grant also presented the opportunity to apply for separate funds through a grant component seeking innovative approaches to strengthening the use of CHWs. Virginia's application addresses the development of sustainable financing. The CDC will make five awards in this category for up to \$2 million each.

CHW Statewide Registry Update

The Virginia Statewide CHW Registry is on track for implementation on July 1, 2021. IPHI conducted three focus groups, two dedicated exclusively to CHW feedback, and a presentation to the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council during its April meeting. Plugin, a Richmond-based technology development company, is building the site. The registry will identify position titles under the larger umbrella of "community health worker," include localities where CHWs work and roles and focus areas of CHW's performance. The registry will serve as an education and training resource by identifying opportunities for core competency training and continuing education offerings. Finally, the registry will also contain networking features that allow CHW to connect and share information.

Register Now for UNITY Conference 2021 and Annual Meeting

The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) encourages CHW and ally members to register for UNITY Conference 2021 on July 28-29. This conference is a virtual event. The theme is 'Bringing Hope & Care to Communities.' Join NACHW in bringing CHWs and its allies together to connect and elevate the CHW workforce. Attendees are also encouraged to learn and shape how NACHW works on behalf CHWs and the communities they serve.

[Go to the Registration Page](#)