



Virginia CHW News & Updates

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 from October 28, 2020 through April 1, 2021. After April 1st, 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 on CHWs and Diabetes Prevention and Management on December 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.



IPHI is presenting the first of three webinars focusing on CHWs and diabetes prevention and management. The first webinar on **Monday, December 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.** will focus on social determinants of health and their impact on diabetes health disparities.

Objectives of this webinar are to:

- Describe the social determinants of health (SDOH) and their impact on health and diabetes outcomes;
- Discuss the role of the Community Health Worker in addressing SDOH;
- Explain the role of Community Health Workers within health care teams to promote a holistic approach to chronic disease management;
- Provide examples of Community Health Workers currently addressing SDOH to impact persons with chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Register for the webinar at this [link](#).

What a Biden Administration Could Mean for Community Health Workers

Before the election, candidate, now President-elect Joe Biden outlined what he described as a 21st Century Caregiving and Education Workforce ([link here](#)) as part of his economic recovery plan. A component of this plan is to improve caregiving and health outcomes "in our nation's most underserved communities **by adding 150,000 community health workers** (emphasis added)."

The policy position goes on by stating, "Addressing our nation's caregiving challenges also requires investing more in communities that suffer from significant racial health disparities driven by chronic underfunding and systemic racial discrimination. Biden will more than triple the number of community health workers – often workers of color serving the communities where they live – who are part of a national effort to prevent and treat chronic conditions in underserved, economically-disadvantaged urban and rural communities. He will do this by providing direct grant funding, and adding community health worker services as an optional benefit for states under Medicaid."

Community health solutions can lead to better health outcomes, allow people to live with more independence, and ease caregiving challenges through by focusing on prevention and care coordination, reducing unnecessary and expensive hospitalization. In times of a health crisis, they can be repurposed to fill basic public health needs quickly. Repeated studies from across the country, including North Carolina and Philadelphia, have shown that investments in community-based health care and health workers save money by reducing hospitalizations and costly treatments that could have been avoided or better managed while also improving health and improving career ladders for workers, with annual savings of up to \$2,290 per beneficiary. A recent study revealed that every dollar spent on community health workers would yield \$2.47 in savings. "

CHWs Can Help Identify Communication Perceptions of a COVID-19 Vaccine!



ImmunizeVA is excited to share a survey developed by member organization NOVA Scripts Central to evaluate community perceptions of a COVID-19 vaccine across Virginia. The surveys will provide a deeper understanding of community attitudes towards a new vaccine and inform efforts to educate communities and develop effective communications materials. ImmunizeVA will partner with NOVA Scripts Central to disseminate these findings.

CHWs can help collect data by asking your clients or members of your community to take this brief survey.

- [Link & QR Code for a General Vaccine Survey](#) (left click on link to access survey)
- [Link & QR Code for a Vaccine Survey for Seniors](#) (left click on link to access survey)

For more questions, contact community@novascriptscentral.org.



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 Standards Group Meets with Council to Review Recommendations for Programs Hiring CHWs

On November 30th, Jill Feldstein with the Penn Center for Community Health Workers at the University of Pennsylvania presented an update on the work of the Virginia CHW Standards Advisory Committee. The meeting was scheduled to allow members of the Council to review and comment on the Committee's progress to-date. Thirty-seven people attended the meeting via Zoom.

The standards document is divided into six parts: hiring and compensation, training and professional development, supervision and evaluation, CHW work practice, organizational support, and involvement in decision-making and information sharing.

Persons can view the archived Zoom meeting at www.chwva.org/council-videos. The Committee invites comments on its work as it moves toward completion of the standards.



STANDARDS



Let Us Know Who Should Receive CHW Survey

In collaboration with the Virginia CHW Association and the Institute for Public Health Innovation, the Virginia Department of Health is finalizing its survey to CHWs and programs using CHWs. The Council asks for your help to identify CHWs and CHW employers who should receive the survey by letting IPHI know at 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 diabetes and chronic disease literacy resources.

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. It will contain a pill dispenser, a pedometer, a magnifying glass, a glucose monitor*, and a blood pressure monitor* (*items on a loaner system). The Richmond City Health District provides two coaching sessions regarding the kit. Coaching session 1 includes explaining the toolkit's content, discussing the use of blood pressure cuff, troubleshooting common errors that a CHW may see on the machine, and how to coach someone based on results to AHA blood pressure ranges. Coaching session two is a CHW doing a live or video demonstration with the blood pressure cuff and taking someone's blood pressure. **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.

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

ImmunizeVA recording on Flu Vaccine CHW Training

For persons unable to view the training live last month a recording is available at the link below. **You will be asked to register before viewing .**

- [Training Recording](#)

Training resources include the following links:

- [Training Slides](#)
- [Handout: De-Escalation Tips](#)
- [Handout: OARS](#)
- [Handout: Flu Vaccine Facts](#)

Research Corner: CHWs, Face Shields and COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Community Health Workers in India Before and After Use of Face Shields

"Before face shields, 62 workers (40 women) visited 5,880 homes with 31,164 persons. From the 5,880 homes visited, 222 persons tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, between May 4th to May 13th. Twelve workers (19%) were infected during this period... After face shield introduction, 50 workers (previously uninfected) continued to provide counseling, visiting 18,228 homes. Among the counseled 118,428 persons, 2,682 subsequently tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. No worker developed asymptomatic or symptomatic infection." **Note: The use of face shields by CHWs was in addition to other personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, and shoe covers.** Face shields offer eye protection and have been shown to move air from around the face.

[Go to the JAMA Network article](#)