



OVERVIEW OF THE MN CHW REGISTRY

Why a MN CHW registry?

Community Health Workers (CHWs) work throughout Minnesota to improve health and promote health equity, in a broad array of settings and for many different kinds of employers such as clinics, hospitals, public health departments, and social service agencies. CHWs are frontline health workers, typically from the communities they serve, who address health disparities and social determinants of health by providing culturally competent health education, care coordination, advocacy and other services under their scope of practice.

Minnesota is a recognized national leader in CHW field-building with a scope of practice, model education program, and Minnesota Health Care Program payment for specific CHW services. Yet, as an emerging health profession, CHWs are still new to many Minnesota health and human services agencies and the field faces challenges related to awareness, recognition and integration into team-based models. Stronger connections between CHWs, healthcare and public health systems, payers, policy-makers, community-based organizations, employers, and other allies are needed to sustain this workforce innovation and maximize its potential to help address Minnesota's persistent health inequities.

What is a Registry?

A statewide CHW registry is a voluntary listing of active CHWs in Minnesota. This listing provides a strong foundation for strengthening the CHW field, helping to support community building among CHWs and agencies across sectors and geographic locations.

How will it work?

The online voluntary statewide registry includes CHWs who have completed Minnesota's model CHW certificate program ("certificate holders") as well as experienced CHWs who have not yet attained this educational credential. CHW registry members enter information about where they work and have worked, what training they have received, their skills (including their specific language skills), cultural background, and life experience.

The registry contributes to a deeper understanding of the size, composition and diversity of the CHW profession and creates a rich picture of the full potential of the CHW role.

Who benefits from the CHW registry?

Community Health Workers:

A registry provides a foundation for the growing CHW community -- a tool for connecting CHWs and allies in order to achieve the CHW field's principle of "nothing

about us without us.” The registry creates an effective opportunity for receiving communication about policy issues that impact the CHW profession as well as employment and ongoing educational opportunities.

State and Local Governments, Policymakers and Payers:

A registry provides government agencies, payers and policymakers a more complete picture of the emerging CHW workforce and the important role CHWs play in promoting health and wellbeing, reducing unnecessary costs, and expanding and diversifying Minnesota’s health care and public health workforce. It provides a critical database for workforce analysis and development such as identifying CHW shortage areas and key trends related to supply and demand, education, and other factors.

Employers (Health Providers, Public Health, Social Services Agencies & Others)

A registry provide current and potential employers an overview of CHWs within Minnesota, including their skills, experience and education. It also provides a platform for posting CHW employment and educational opportunities.

Community-based Organizations:

A registry shares the broad range of roles and needs that CHWs fill and can inform strategies to organize and leverage organization’s work and impact to achieve population health and equity.

Researchers:

The registry connects CHWs and researchers to share expertise and collaborate to increase health equity within specific communities and people with specific health conditions.

Learn more about Minnesota CHWs

The Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance: www.mnchwalliance.org

The State of the CHW Field in Minnesota:

http://mnchwalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MNCHWA_State-of-the-CHW-Field_Dec_21_2018.pdf

Learn more about the Minnesota CHW Registry

<http://mnchwalliance.org/minnesota-chw-registry/>