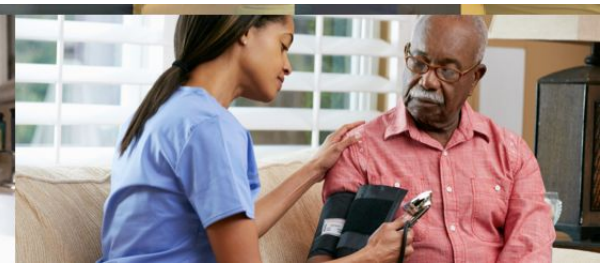




Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification in Maryland

February 2, 2026



Statute, Regulations, and Definition

CHW Statute and Regulations

The Maryland Community Health Worker Act (2018): The Annotated Code of Maryland, Health-General Article §§ 13 - 3701 - 3709 (Chapter 441), Public Health – Community Health Workers – Advisory Committee and Certification

- Establishes the **State CHW Advisory Committee**
- Requires **regulations related to the training and certification of CHWs**

[COMAR 10.68.01](#): Certification of Community Health Workers

[COMAR 10.68.02](#): Accreditation of Community Health Worker Certification Training Programs

CHW Core Competencies

1. Advocacy and community capacity building skills
2. Effective oral and written communication skills
3. Cultural competency
4. Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues
5. Knowledge of local resources and system navigation
6. Care coordination support skills
7. Teaching skills to promote healthy behavior change
8. Outreach methods and strategies
9. Understanding of public health concepts and health literacy

CHW Definition

A **Community Health Worker (CHW)** is a **frontline public health worker** who is a **trusted member** of or has an **unusually close understanding of the community served**.

This trusting relationship enables a CHW to serve as a **liaison to, link to, or intermediary between health and social services and the community**.

CHWs **build individual and community capacity** by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, the provision of information to support individuals in the community, social support, and advocacy.

CHW Job Titles

CHWs go by many titles, depending on where they work, who they work for, and what they do. Common titles include:

- Promotores(as) de Salud
- Health Coach
- Community Health Advisor
- Community Health Coach
- Lay Health Advocate
- Community Health Care Worker
- Health Educator
- Liaison
- Outreach Worker
- Peer Counselor
- Patient Navigator
- Health Interpreter
- Public Health Aide
- Community Health Representative
- Outreach Specialist, and more

Key Points

CHW Certification - Key Points

- Voluntary and free of charge
- Certification is based on the completion of an [accredited CHW certification training program](#)
- CHW certificates are **effective for 2 years**
- Certificates authorize the individual to represent themselves to the public as a **certified CHW (CCHW)**
- **20 hours of professional development** required for certificate renewal

CHW Certification Requirements

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Provide documentation of successful completion of an [accredited CHW certification training program](#)
- Possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent
- Submit a CHW certification application
 - [Maryland OneStop](#)
 - Paper application on request in English and other languages

Visit the CHW Certificate Webpage



Community Health Workers

OPHI Home

CHW Home

Certification

Certification based on the completion of an Accredited CHW Training Program

CCHW Certificate Renewal

Community Health Worker Certification Based on the Completion of an Accredited CHW Certification Training Program

Maryland Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Based on the Completion of an Accredited CHW Certification Training Program Key Points:

- A CHW certification is effective for two years from the date issued.
- There is no fee for certification or certification renewal.
- Submission of a CHW certification application based on the completion of an accredited CHW certification training program is completed through the [Maryland OneStop](#) portal.

Requirements for CHW certification based on the completion of an accredited CHW training program:

- **Age:** The applicant must be 18 years or older.
- **Successful completion of a CHW certification training program accredited by the Maryland Department of Health:**
 - The applicant must provide documentation of successful completion of a CHW training program accredited by the Maryland Department of Health

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-based-on-the-completion-of-an-Accredited-CHW-Training-Program.aspx>

Ready to Apply?

The “Apply Here” link at the bottom of the CHW Certification webpage links to the application on Maryland OneStop

[APPLY HERE FOR CHW CERTIFICATION BASED ON THE COMPLETION OF AN ACCREDITED CHW TRAINING PROGRAM](#)

Maryland OneStop CCHW Certification Application

Community Health Worker Certification Application Based on the Completion of an Accredited CHW Certification Training Program

Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification based on Completion of CHW Certification Training Program accredited by the Maryland Department of Health

Individuals may apply at any time for certification based on the completion of a CHW certification training program accredited by the Maryland Department of Health.

...

[Show more](#)



No due date



1 day - 90 days



30 - 60 min



\$0.00

Maryland OneStop CCHW Certification Application

First Name*

Last Name*

Date of Birth* 

MM/DD/YYYY



Phone* 

Email*

Confirm Email* 

Alternate Email

Mailing Address* 

Certification Application Required Documents

- Form of age verification
 - Includes name and date of birth
- Documentation of successful completion from an accredited training program that includes the:
 - training program name;
 - training program address;
 - training program accreditation number;
 - date of completion and
 - an authorizing signature.

Certification Application Steps

- Review your application!
- Tip: Click on uploaded documents to be sure they open the way you intend.
- **Read** and check if you agree to the Attestation, **sign and date** the application.
- Click “Submit.”

After the Application is Submitted

You will receive:

- Notice of additional information needed to complete the application

Or

- Notice the application has been approved including the CHW certificate effective for two years

CHW Certificate Renewal

- CHW certificates are effective for two (2) years.
- A CHW may renew their certificate for up to two (2) years after the certificate expiration date.
- Twenty hours of professional development are required to renew a certificate.
- Visit the [CHW Certificate Renewal webpage](#) for information on how to renew a CHW certificate!

MDH CHW Program Staff

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State CHW Advisory Committee Staff

Adrienne Taylor

18 Administrative Specialist

CHWs – Contact Information

We will help you with this process!

- Contact the CHW Program for assistance
 - Email: MDH.CHWApplications@maryland.gov
 - Call: 410-767-5971

CHW Certificate Resources

CHW Statute and Regulations

2018 Community Health Worker Act

(Health-General §§ 13-3701 - 3709)

<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Documents/CHW-Code-13-37.pdf>

COMAR 10.68.01

Regulations for CHW certification and recertification

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=10.68.01.*

Maryland CHW Core Competencies

Maryland CHW Core Competencies (English)

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Documents/Maryland-CHW-Core-Competencies.pdf>

Maryland CHW Core Core Competencies (Spanish)

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Documents/Competencias-b%c3%a1sicas-de-los-promotores-de-salud-de-Maryland-10.15.19.pdf>

CHW Certification Webpages

Community Health Worker Certification based on the Completion of an Accredited Training Program (English)

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-based-on-the-completion-of-an-Accredited-CHW-Training-Program.aspx>

Community Health Worker Certification based on the Completion of an Accredited Training Program (Spanish)

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-based-on-the-completion-of-an-Accredited-CHW-training-program-Spanish.aspx>

Accredited CHW Training Programs

[Accredited CHW certification training programs](https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Accredited-Community-Health-Worker-Training-Programs.aspx)

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Accredited-Community-Health-Worker-Training-Programs.aspx>

- This list is updated regularly as new CHW training programs are accredited.

CHW Certificate Renewal Application

Maryland OneStop Application: CHW Certification based on the completion of an accredited training program

<https://onestop.md.gov/forms/chw-certification-application-5d6ebfe095ea3d00feed6f9c>

CHW Certificate Renewal Webpages

Community Health Worker Certificate Renewal (English) webpage

<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/CCHW-Certificate-Renewal.aspx>

Community Health Worker Certificate Renewal (Spanish) webpage

<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/CCHW-Certificate-Renewal-Spanish.aspx>

Thank you!