



Certification is now available for experienced community health workers in Maryland!

A Community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is often a member of and has a close understanding of the community served. This relationship enables a CHW to serve as a liaison between health and social services and the community. CHWs facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competency of service delivery. CHWs are known by many titles including community health representatives, community health advisors, community health outreach workers, outreach specialists, patient navigators, lay health advisors, promotores de salud, peer counselors and others.

Certification for CHWs is voluntary. You may continue to work as a CHW without being certified. **There is no fee to apply for certification.**

Benefits of certification for CHWs: Certification acknowledges the CHW workforce and profession; recognizes a CHW's diverse skills and experience; and may further a CHW's education, career and employment goals.

Eligibility requirements for experienced CHWs to apply for certification:

- Occupied as a CHW on October 1, 2018;
- Be 18 years old or older;
- Have 2,000 hours of CHW paid or volunteer experience;
- Proficiency in CHW core competencies; and
- Two letters of validation from a current or former employer, supervisor or agency representative.

Certification applications will be accepted for experienced CHWs from **Sept. 1 through March 31, 2020.**

For full eligibility requirements and instructions on how to apply, visit <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-Program.aspx>

For questions or more information, contact the MDH CHW certification team by email at MDH.CHWApplications@Maryland.gov or call 410-767-5971.