Overview of the Community Health Worker Hub

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Community Health Worker

"A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery."

The Path to the Hub

2019 – Request for Career Ladder Progression for Community Health Worker (CHW) Family.

2019/2020 – Internal plans developed to launch a CHW HUB

2021 – Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce Public Health Recommendations

August 2021 – Community Health Worker titles within the City of Austin.

August 2021 - $500,000 in one-time funding for the creation of the CHW Network and Training.

March 2022 – Austin Public Health approved for a certification training program for Community Health Workers.

Community Health Worker and Community Health Worker Instructor

Community Health Worker (CHW)

- Liaison and trusted messenger
- Advocates
- Connects

Community Health Worker Instructor (CHW-I)

Trains other CHWs

- 160 hr certification course
- Continuing Education (CEU)

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Certification for Community Health Workers

Who can be a Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Certified Community Health Worker?

- ✓ Texas resident
- ✓ 16 yrs. old +
- ✓ Training
  - Class Instruction – Completion 160-hour approved class instruction

    OR
  - Experience – At least 1000 hrs. of CHW experience

CHW Core Competencies

- Communication Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Service Coordination Skills
- Capacity-Building Skills
- Advocacy Skills
- Teaching Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Knowledge Base on Specific Health Issues

Training for CHW Certification

Option 1 - Class Instruction

- Approved DSHS training program
- 160 hours
- Virtual and In-person learning options

OR

Option 2 - Experience

- 1000 cumulative hours of community health work services
- Within last three (3) years.
- Experience verified with the supervisor(s) noted in the application.

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160 hr. training course

Class Set Up

- 2 cohorts
  - Virtual Class – Tuesday & Thursdays, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
  - In-Person – Saturdays, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
  - May 21st – September 10th

Current Enrollment

- Virtual – 21
- In-person – 19

Marketing

- Word-of-Mouth from APH CHW Instructors
- Promo Flyer
- Total sign-ups for classes (142 responses)

Staffing

- Current APH Instructors
- Staffing Challenges

FREE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM

12 week program starts May 21

- FREE
- Limited to 40 participants
- DSHS certified 160-hour course
- 5 hours of class each week
- Hands-on activities

In-Person
Saturdays
9am-3pm
Location: Bergstrom
Tech Center, 6800
Burleson Rd, Bldg 310,
Rm 195.15
(free parking)

Register:
https://tinyurl.com/AustinCHW

For more information
aph-chwhub@austintexas.gov

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CHW Certification Renewal

CHW Certification is renewable every two years.

To renew CHW certification with DSHS –

- Be a current Texas resident.
- Complete 20 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) every two years.
  - CEUs must be related to core competencies
  - Minimum 10 certified hours and 10 non-certified hours
  - DSHS Website – Education Calendar and online courses

CEUs Breakdown for Renewing

Certified		Certified		Non-Certified
• 10 hrs of DSHS certified CEUs	OR	• 5 hrs of DSHS certified CEUs and • 5 hrs of CEUs completed to renew a Texas license or certification in another health profession	+	• 10 hrs of non-DSHS certified CEUs

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Resources
https://dshs.texas.gov/chw.aspx
https://www.austintexas.gov/department/community-health-worker-hub