

Community Health Worker Infrastructure Development An Overview of Approaches in RI and Region V

Multiple levels of approaches to promote CHW workforce development

- Legislative
- Executive Orders
- State Agencies (HHS, Labor, etc)
- State Plan Amendments to Medicaid

The ACA and CHWs

- A call to action for CHW workforce development
 - Defines CHWs
 - CDC may fund agencies who use CHWs
 - Area Health Education Centers must provide interdisciplinary health professional training (including CHWs)
 - *But states themselves must advocate for and implement changes*
-

State Approaches to CHW Infrastructure

RI:

- Mandate for development of diverse CHW workforce in 2013 Health Equity Commission legislation
- The Community Health Worker Association of Rhode Island offers certification training, which is endorsed by the RI DoH. No grandfathering process.
- Community Health Innovations, RI offers core skills course, which is recognized by the Depart of Apprenticeship (RI Dept of Labor)
- In Process of establishing State Apprenticeship Program

IL:

- Currently, no standard CHW definition, few funding mechanisms, no statewide curriculum or certification program
- The Community Health Worker Act created minimum core competencies for CHW
- 2014 established CHW Advisory Board, which worked to build strong relationships around policy change and published 6 draft recommendations for CHW advancement
- These need to be implemented via legislation, executive orders, medicaid state plan amendment, etc

MI:

- MI CHW Association has a standardized training program for CHW certification, which may evolve to become state certification program
- MICHWA's current priorities: Analyze various payment models for CHW services, evaluate the possibility of a State Plan Amendment for CHW payment, create protocol for CHW certification

OH:

- Certification through Board of Nursing, continuing education required; must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma, and pass criminal background check.
- In practice, CHWs must be supervised by a health professional and are restricted from performing services requiring a professional license.
- Funding focused around infant mortality work
- Ohio Medicaid grants through the OSU Government Resource Center for CHW training,
- Many CHWs working through Pathways Community Hubs

MN

- Statewide CHW certificate program based in post secondary schools, requires high school degree
- CHWs can be reimbursed through MN Health Care Programs (includes Medicaid, MinnesotaCare) if they have a certificate or 5 years of supervised experience; must work under clinician supervision

How do I learn more about my state?

- NASHP: <http://www.nashp.org/state-community-health-worker-models/>
- State specific CHW associations