

Community Health Worker (CHW) Impact in Pennsylvania

JANUARY 2024

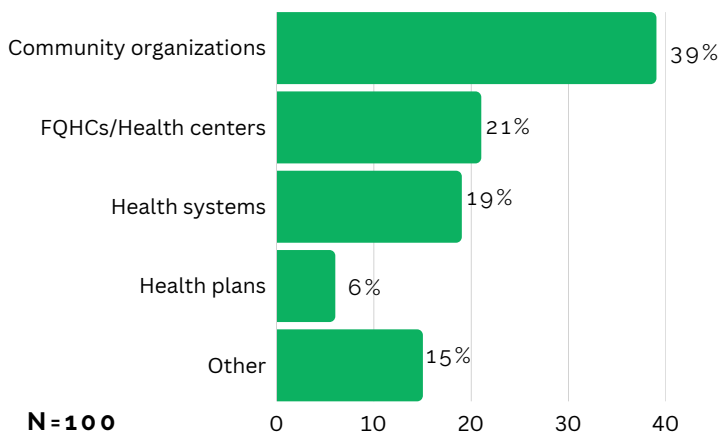
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

A community health worker (CHW) 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 an intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.



2023 CHW EMPLOYERS



CHW IMPACT

- Reduce healthcare spending. Annual return on investment of \$2.47 for Medicaid (Kangovi, 2020).
- Improve health outcomes and chronic disease control
- Reduce hospitalizations and ED visits.
- Reduce mental health symptoms.
- Improve communities.
- Address Health Related Social Needs.
- Provide preventative health services

575

Certified CHWs in
PA (2022)

\$2.47

Medicaid Return on
Investment

67

PA Counties served
by CHWs

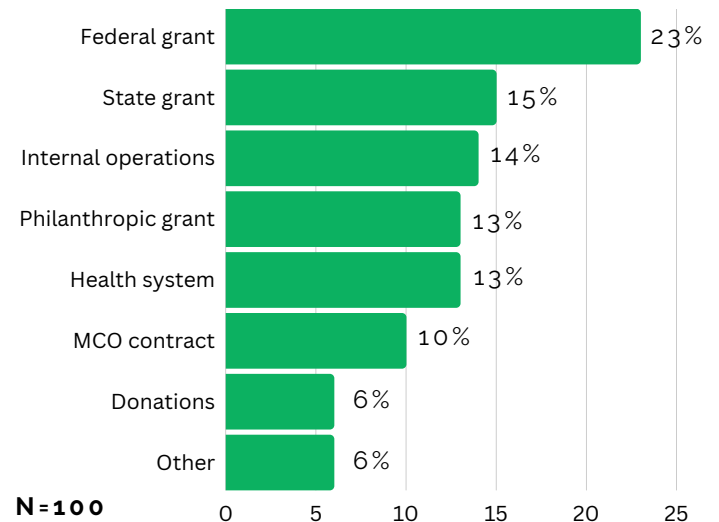
Sustainable Financing for Pennsylvania Community Health Workers (CHWs)

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PA CHW COLLABORATIVE

The Pennsylvania Community Health Worker Collaborative exists to unite and empower PA CHWs through active collaboration, education, advocacy, and support. We champion the development of a strong professional identity and leadership in advocacy and policy change that impacts the communities we serve. We believe that the Commonwealth should support CHWs by ensuring the forthcoming state plan amendment aligns with the following promising practices to ensure an equitable development of the workforce.

2023 CHW FUNDING SOURCES



PROMISING PRACTICES

- Provide adequate financing for full-service preventive coverage and minimize limits on number of billable units.
- Minimize barriers for all CHW employers to participate in billing, including allowing community-based organizations to enroll as CHW billing providers or MA providers.
- Expand the Pennsylvania definition of Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts by including Licensed Social Workers to minimize barriers for qualifying CHW referrals.
- Include all populations in service coverage and recognize social determinants of health as a qualifying condition.