

Who are we?

What is the PA Community Health Worker Collaborative?

We are a cross-sector coalition made up of 400+ CHWs and allies from across PA. Our mission is 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.

Who are CHWs?

- Trusted members of the community
- Share lived experience (provide examples) and build relationships
- Serve as intermediaries between health/human services and the community
- Facilitate access to services in a culturally appropriate way
- Provide screening & health education, outreach, informal counseling, social support

Personal Impact Story

Use your own words to give an example of a person you served or helped.

What is the problem?

- Communities are at risk of losing CHW programs.
- CHW positions are mostly short-term and grant funded.
- Impact is difficult to show in 1–2 year periods. Relationship-building takes time.
- CHWs are needed to fill the gaps, create linkages, address social risk factors.

Why is this important?

- **CHW services are not reimbursable** through Medicaid in PA. We are currently working on a state plan amendment with DHS, and we need to ensure we get it right.
- **CHWs improve health outcomes.** CHWs help improve disease control, improve health outcomes, and reduce mental health symptoms.
- **CHWs reduce healthcare spending.** Every dollar spent on patients receiving support from CHWs results in an annual return on investment of \$2.47 (2020 Penn study).
- **CHWs reduce hospitalizations and ED visits.**
- **CHWs improve and connect communities** by providing a social return on investment that cannot be measured by dollars.
- **CHWs address Health Related Social Needs** as an extension of the care team

Call to Action

Support and sustain the CHW workforce!

- Raise awareness and educate others on the importance of CHWs
- Provide adequate financing for full-service coverage .
- Remove barriers for community-based organizations to participate in billing by allowing non-clinical providers, such as social workers, to order CHW services.
- Ensure limits on units billed adequately reflects the full time necessary for CHWs to provide services & build relationships.
- Include all populations in service coverage.