

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS & Medicaid Across the U.S

Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a key role in advancing health equity.

What is the impact? CHWs reduce ED visits and hospital readmissions, improve health outcomes, and have a high return on investment.

How? By ensuring people can navigate the health system, access medications and social supports, communicate effectively with clinicians and advocate for themselves.

Understanding CHWs in Connecticut



“As a certified CHW, I help navigate families through all of the social determinants of health that create unnecessary barriers to quality health services. CHWs also experience barriers to getting the services for our clients. I would like to see CHWs be better represented, appreciated, and funded as a part of the health care system. We should be a part of the process. Truly engaging the people’s policies or programs every step of the way is crucial to achieving equitable health care for all.”

~ Nanfi. N. Lubogo, MCH-PHLI Fellow, CCHW

Medicaid Reimbursement for CHWs

OR’s Medicaid Reimbursement State policies support CHWs in both clinical and community-based settings and ensure that CHW programs promote job development in communities most affected by health inequities.

25 state Medicaid programs
reimburse CHWs

#MakeCT26

*To advance health equity, Connecticut must
join this movement!*

State Medicaid programs reimburse CHWs for:

- **Health promotion and health system navigation** (CA, RI, SD, NM, MI, and LA)
- **Support for managing chronic diseases** (IN, RI, MI, SD)
- **Care and resource coordination** (RI, MN, LA, and MI)
- **Pregnancy and Birth Support** (OR, MI, SD, RI)

For more information about the CHW coalition please contact Info@hesct.org.

CONNECTICUT CHW SPOTLIGHT

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted longstanding inequities in health and health care. Community health workers (CHWs) played vital roles in addressing the disparate impact. The Connecticut Health Foundation funded local health departments to include CHW services in their pandemic response.

CHW Perceptions of Initiative

Made a real difference in people's lives:

87% 10% 3%

Helped people find the support they need:

77% 20% 3%

Helped people learn about the resources available:

77% 20% 3%

Agree Completely Agree Somewhat Disagree Completely

What happened?

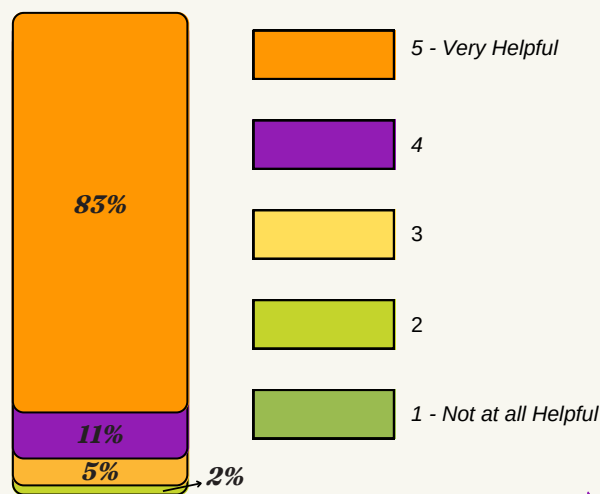
In Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, and Stamford...

- CHWs provided services tailored to the needs of each community and health department...
- Including contact tracing, community outreach and education, supporting COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics, and connecting community members to needed services and supports.

What Were the Results?

- Over 80% of people who shared all of their needs with a CHW said those needs were met!
- The costs of the program were offset by savings from averted COVID-19 cases.
- Most of the residents who responded to a survey about their experience with a CHW identified as Latino/a or Black, aligned with the grant's goal of ensuring these communities had access to services and supports.

Overall Helpfulness



Source: *The Role of Community Health Worker Services in COVID-19 Response Efforts*, Connecticut Health Foundation, Fall 2022

Key Considerations for CT's Medicaid CHW program

- Community and CHW voices must be embedded in all stages of design and implementation.
- Reimbursement rates must be high enough to employ CHWs at a livable wage and cover the costs of supervision, billing, and routine training.
- A comprehensive list of CHW services must be reimbursable to maximize their potential.

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