



Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA)

THE PATIENT PROTECTION & AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010

Provisions for Community Health Workers (bold text was inserted for emphasis)

§5101—NATIONAL HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE COMMISSION

CHWs are listed as a health care provider under the “health care workforce” and are defined as health professionals.

§5313—GRANTS TO PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKFORCE

The CDC “awards grants to eligible entities that promote positive health behaviors and outcomes for populations in medically underserved communities through the use of **community health workers.**”

Grants are used to support CHWs and their roles for education and outreach in the following areas:

- (1) Prevalent health problems in medically underserved communities, particularly racial and ethnic minority populations;
- (2) Promotion of health behaviors and discouragement of risky health behaviors;
- (3) Enrollment in health insurance;
- (4) Identify and referring individuals to healthcare agencies and social services to increase access and eliminate duplicative care; and
- (5) Provide home visitation services for maternal health and prenatal care.

This section defines community health worker as follows: “The term ‘**community health worker**’ means an individual who promotes health or nutrition within the community in which the individual resides—

- (A) by serving as a liaison between communities and health care agencies;
- (B) by providing guidance and social assistance to community residents;
- (C) by enhancing community residents’ ability to effectively communicate with healthcare providers;
- (D) by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health or nutrition education;
- (E) by advocating for individual and community health
- (F) by providing referral and follow-up services or otherwise coordinating care; and
- (G) by proactively identifying and enrolling eligible individuals in Federal, State, local, private or non-profit health and human services programs.”

§5403—INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES

The Secretary shall award grants to Area Health Education Centers to “Conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training that involves physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, dentists, psychologists, pharmacists, optometrists, **community health workers**, public and allied health professionals, or other health professionals, as practicable.”