

# Community Health Workers & Michigan: An Overview



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
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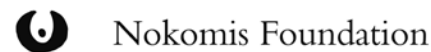
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# Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA)



The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance's mission is to promote and sustain the integration of community health workers into Michigan's health and human service systems through coordinated changes in policy and workforce development.





# MiCHWA's Partners





# CHW Definition

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 CHW to serve as a liaison/link/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.

American Public Health Association,  
Community Health Worker Section 2009





# National Perspective

- Workforce Size
  - There are up to 86,000 community health workers nationally
  - Over 20 states have existing movements to support CHW sustainability and promotion
- Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010
  - Referenced in three sections of the ACA
  - §5101: CHWs listed as “health professionals” who are an important part of the health care workforce
- Collaboration
  - American Public Health Association Community Health Worker Section
  - Community Health Worker National Education Collaborative
  - DHHS Office on Women’s Health

Source: Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration. *Community Health Worker National Workforce Survey*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. DHHS, 2007.

Community Health Workers Section. Resources/links. American Public Health Association Community Health Workers Section Web site. 2013. Available at: <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/chw/Resources/>. Accessed February 11, 2013.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 42 USC (2010).





# CHW as an Emerging Profession

In the past few years, several national groups and organizations have released CHW recommendations, endorsements, or statements legitimizing the use of CHWs within health and human service systems and the communities they serve.

- ASTHO 2012
- CDC Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention 2011
- National Prevention Council 2011
- HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities 2011
- HHS National Health Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy 2010
- AADE 2010
- AHRQ 2009
- APHA 2009, 2001
- NCSL 2008
- AACHW 2008
- Family Strengthening Policy Center 2006
- NFME 2006
- IOM 2003
- AMA 2002



# CHW Roles

- Outreach and Community Mobilization
- Community/Cultural Liaison
- Case Management and Care Coordination
- Home-Based Support
- Health Promotion and Health Coaching
- System Navigation
- Participatory Research



Source: The New York State Community Health Worker Initiative. Paving a path to advance the community health worker workforce in New York State: A new summary report and recommendations.



# CHWs in Michigan

- How long have they been here?
  - CHWs were first trained to provide services in Michigan in the 1960s
- Where do they provide services?
  - Homes, clinics, community centers, schools, hospitals
- Who employs them?
  - Non-profits, health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers, government agencies, academic or research institutions
  - Programs including Healthy Start and the Maternal Infant Health Program at some program sites



*CHWs & supporters pose at the MDPH Advocate Conference in the early 1990s.  
Photo courtesy of Rebeca Guzman.*



# What are CHWs called in Michigan?

- **Camp Health Aide**
- Case Work Aide
- Community Care Coordinator
- **Community Health Advocate**
- Community Health Promoter
- **Community Health Worker**
- **Community Neighborhood Navigator**
- **Community Outreach Worker**
- **Family Health Advocate**
- HIV Peer Counselor
- Lay Health Advisor
- **Maternal Child Health Worker**
- Neighborhood Health Advisor
- Outreach Specialist
- **Parent Support Partner**
- **Patient Health Navigator**
- Patient Navigator
- **Peer Support Specialist**
- *Promotor(a) de Salud*
- Public Health Aide
- **Recovery Coach**
- **Weight Loss Counselor**

Source: Rush CH. Promoting policy and systems change to expand employment of community health workers (CHWs). Centers for Disease Control Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Control. [http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/pubs/chw\\_elearning/cdc\\_session\\_1\\_page\\_6\\_dhdsp.html](http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/pubs/chw_elearning/cdc_session_1_page_6_dhdsp.html). Updated November 14, 2011. Accessed February 4, 2013.  
Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance Employer Survey 2012.



# What do CHWs do in Michigan?

## Health Areas in which CHWs work

- Cancer Screening & Prevention
- Diabetes
- Enrollment
- Heart Disease
- Housing
- Hypertension
- Infant Mortality
- Maternal/Child Health
- Migrant Health
- Nutrition
- School-based health

*Photo courtesy of Rebeca Guzman and Anne Lee*



Source: Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance Employer Survey 2012.



# Thank You



Sonia, a Spectrum Health CHW, assists a client understand her baby carrier. *Photo courtesy of James Graessle.*

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**For more information about MiCHWA**  
Please visit our website, [www.michwa.org](http://www.michwa.org)

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