Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers and trusted community resources. They facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competency of service delivery. CHWs are not defined by training or licensure but by who they are and what they do.

**What Do CHWs Do?**

CHWs address racial determinants of health and root causes of poor health, including:

- Unstable housing
- Food insecurity
- Racial discrimination
- Intimate partner violence
- Employment

**Examples of services CHWs provide:**

- Outreach
- Community education
- Informal counseling
- Social support
- Advocacy
- Translation/interpreting
- Health care navigation
- Tracking progress

**Who are CHWs and where do they work?**

The White House proposed adding 100,000 CHWs as part of the American Rescue Plan. The American Rescue Plan allocated $7.66 billion to support the public health workforce, including CHWs.

**Evidence of CHWs' Effectiveness**

- **High Return on Investment**
  
  $2.47:1 ROI to Medicaid payers

- **Reduce Burden of Illness**
  
  Findings from a systematic review

- **Improve Blood Sugar Control**
  
  Among people with diabetes

- **Building Capacity**
  
  Increasing capacity for testing and communication infrastructure

- **Addressing Social Needs**
  
  Identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Ensure Care**
  
  Facilitating health system access and providing psychosocial support

- **Support Mental Health**
  
  Findings from a systematic review

- **Vaccine Advocates**
  
  Encouraging equity in access and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses

- **Trusted Messengers**
  
  Building community trust and strengthening public health response

- **Role of CHWs in the COVID-19 Response**
  
  - Vaccine Advocates
  - Trusted Messengers
  - Building community trust and strengthening public health response

- **How to Support CHWs:**
  
  - Provide Sustainable Funding
  - Formulate Training and Certification Systems
  - Research and Build Evidence Base

**What Are CHWs?**

- **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** are frontline public health workers and trusted community resources.
- **Promotores de salud**
- **Lay health advisors**
- **Community health representatives**
- **Peer mentors and navigators**

**Community Health Workers** are not defined by training or licensure but by who they are and what they do.

**More dramatic growth possible:**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts more dramatic growth possible: who are CHWs and where do they work?

The White House proposed adding 100,000 CHWs as part of the American Rescue Plan. Partners in Health estimated 640,000 CHWs are needed to stop the pandemic and bolster resilience and recovery. The American Rescue Plan allocated $7.66 billion to support the public health workforce, including CHWs.

**Evidence of CHWs' Effectiveness**

- **High Return on Investment**
  
  $2.47:1 ROI to Medicaid payers

- **Reduce Burden of Illness**
  
  Findings from a systematic review

- **Improve Blood Sugar Control**
  
  Among people with diabetes

- **Building Capacity**
  
  Increasing capacity for testing and communication infrastructure

- **Addressing Social Needs**
  
  Identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Ensure Care**
  
  Facilitating health system access and providing psychosocial support

- **Support Mental Health**
  
  Findings from a systematic review

- **Vaccine Advocates**
  
  Encouraging equity in access and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses

- **Trusted Messengers**
  
  Building community trust and strengthening public health response

**How to Support CHWs:**

- **Provide Sustainable Funding**
- **Formulate Training and Certification Systems**
- **Research and Build Evidence Base**