



Community Health Worker Workforce Partnership

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER?

A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a **trusted member** of the community they serve, allowing them to act as an intermediary between the community and several industries including healthcare, criminal justice, education and social services.

The **cultural sensitivity and trauma informed delivery of care** they provide aids in not only improving health status for individuals and communities but also **building community capacity and self-sufficiency** within residents of the same communities negatively affected by compounding social determinants.



Community Health Workers are unique members of a patient's care team, currently missing within our regional health system. CHW's not only serve as **advocates** for their patients but also a **valuable resource** committed to referring patients to additional services and **bringing the gap** to yield patient follow through.



4 STRATEGIES OF THE CHW WORKFORCE MOVEMENT

GOAL: To scale and sustain the CHW workforce within the St Louis Region

Strategy 1:

Build capacity and formalize institutional CHW leadership.

Strategy 2:

Advocate for CHW long-term sustainability.

Strategy 3:

Develop a workforce strategy that supports training and career pipeline.

Strategy 4:

Demonstrate the value of CHWs in the St. Louis region through data.

ABOUT IHN

The St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN) supports the CHW Workforce Partnership through funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health. IHN is a non-profit membership, health intermediary organization that collaborates with community health centers, public health departments, hospital systems, academic medical institutions and other safety net organizations to advance its mission. The IHN acts as a convener and facilitates partnerships across the safety-net system toward the common goal of advancing health equity by increasing healthcare access and quality for the medically under-served.





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CHW Workforce Partners

Affinia Healthcare
Beyond Housing
BJC Healthcare -
Healthy Kids Express
BJK People's Health Centers
CareSTL Health
Casa De Salud
Christian Hospital
COMTREA
Family Care Health Centers
Mercy Health East Communities
Mission St. Louis
Nurses for Newborns
Salvation Army
St. Louis City
Department of Health
St Louis Community College
St. Louis County
Department of Health

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT AS A PARTNER OR EMPLOYER

The IHN convenes and participates in several local, regional and statewide tables around the CHW workforce. **Come take a seat at the table!**

The IHN facilitates a bi-monthly table called HEAL where employers, government leaders, educators, physicians and CHW's come together to strategize and discuss current work going on within the CHW movement.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT AS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

The St Louis region has begun to form a CHW coalition. The coalition is comprised of trained CHW's who are committed to serving beyond their place of employment. These individuals come together to discuss workforce challenges, policy, as well as community needs and engagement. For more information on the coalition, please contact Atara Estes, a member of the coalitions' Board of Leaders.

Jess Holmes
Principal Strategist
Co-Chair, HEAL Table
jholmes@stlouisihn.org

Ciearra Walker
Project Coordinator, CHW Workforce
cwalker@stlouisihn.org

Atara Estes
CHW, RE-LINK Program
Board of Leader
Co-Chair, HEAL Table
aestes@stlouisihn.org