

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW)

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota (CHWSD) was approved by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (SD DLR) to sponsor a CHW Registered Apprenticeship Program for South Dakota.

▶ **Community Health Worker Definition**

A Community Health Worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served.

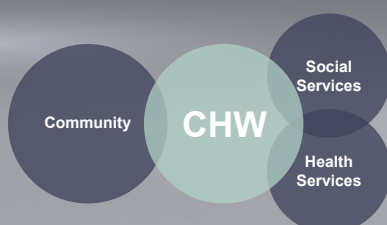
This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

- American Public Health Association, 2025

▶ **Apprenticeship Requirements and Supervision**

The apprenticeship is approximately 1 year(s) with an attainment of 2,000-2,200 hours supplemented by the minimum required 240 hours of related instruction (200 hours of training and 40 hours of job shadowing) through an approved CHW training program in South Dakota.

The journey worker must be at the CHW-level or above, meaning that in addition to a CHW being a journey worker, a nurse or social worker may also be able to be a journey worker (depending on specific credentials).



The CHW is embedded within the community and serves as the connector between the community, social services, and health services.

► Scope of Work for Community Health Workers

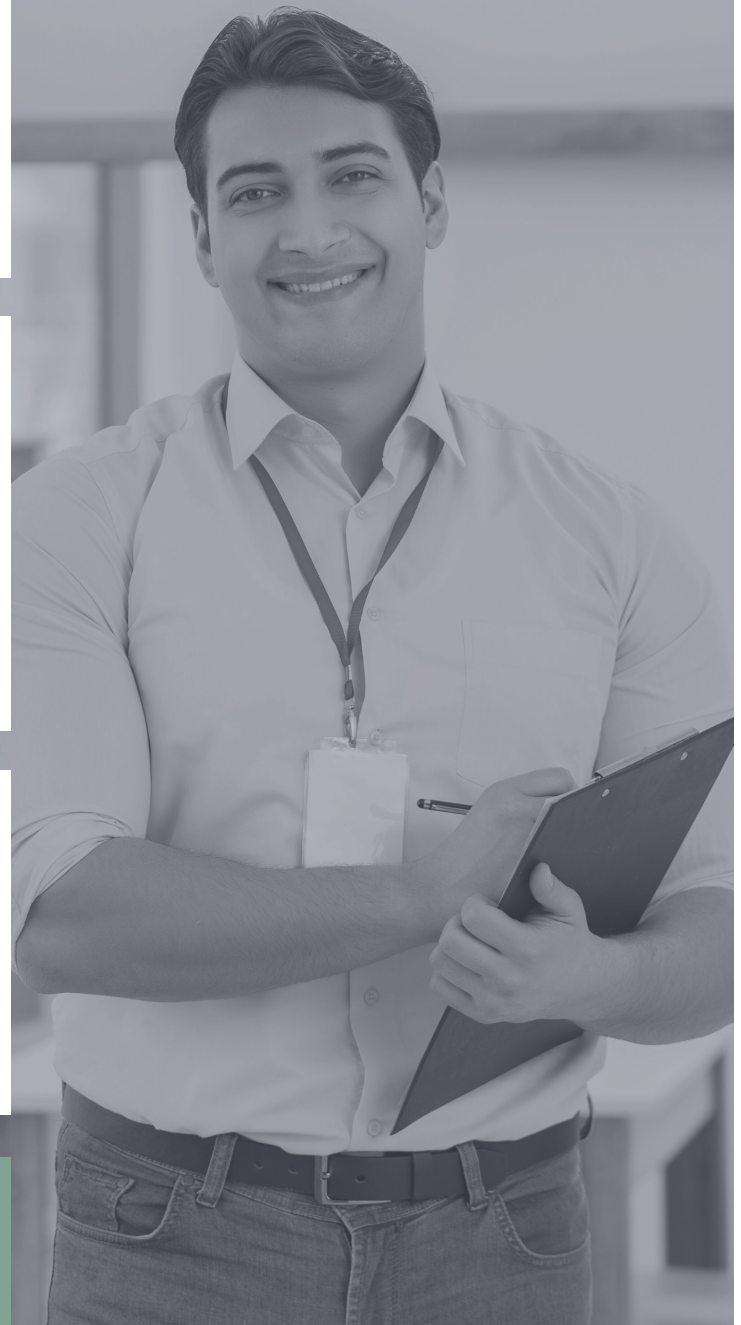
- Health system navigation and resource coordination
- Health promotion and coaching
- Health education

► Example of Community Health Worker Roles

- Work with a patient to arrange for transportation to their medical appointment and to coordinate delivery of their pharmacy prescriptions
- Assist a food-insecure patient in obtaining food specific to their diabetes diagnosis
- Provide health promotion and coaching to assist a patient with heart disease in quitting tobacco use

► Covered Costs of the Apprenticeship Program

The SD DLR CHW Registered Apprenticeship Program will cover the cost of the approved CHW training program tuition and related textbooks, as well as a small stipend throughout the year for each registered apprentice and journey worker.



For more information visit:
www.chwsd.org/apprenticeship

Becoming a Business Sponsor

Organizations interested in becoming a business sponsor (an organization to establish an apprenticeship program, including, but not limited to, medical/clinical organizations, community-based organizations, and other organizations seeking to employ CHWs) can contact for more information and to schedule an initial consultation:

- Ben May, CHWSD Executive Director, at ben@chwsd.org

