

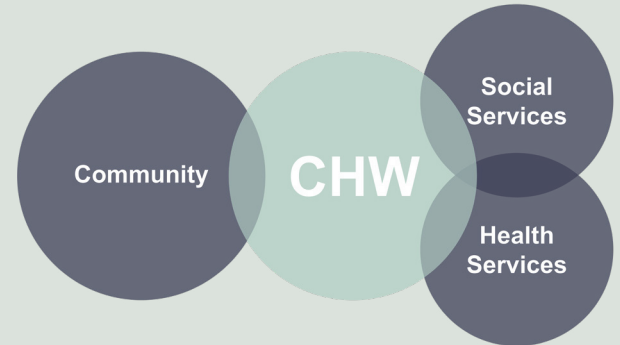
## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW) DEFINITION

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 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, 2021

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



## CERTIFICATE-LEVEL CHW

A Certificate-Level CHW is an individual who has **obtained an approved CHW training certificate in South Dakota** and works under the APHA definition of a CHW. In tribal communities, CHWs are often called Community Health Representatives or CHRs. *In the future, this title may change to Certified CHW, based on a statewide CHW Certification opportunity.*

## CHW SCOPE OF WORK



Health system navigation and resource coordination



Health promotion and coaching



Health education

## EXAMPLE CHW ROLES

- Bridge the gap between communities and the health and social services systems
- Navigate the health and human services system
- Advocate for the individual and community needs
- Provide direct services

## FUNDING AVAILABLE

Organizations in South Dakota are now able to apply for funding to develop and start a CHW program. This funding opportunity will provide up to \$50,000 per site per year to support the following:

- Awareness of the CHW profession
- Training (or cross-training) of an individual to become a CHW
- Workforce and organizational development to create a sustainable CHW program

To learn about the funding opportunity visit [www.chwsd.org/funding/](http://www.chwsd.org/funding/).

## LEARN MORE

For a comprehensive overview, check out the South Dakota CHW Planning and Assessment Toolkit - [www.chwsd.org/toolkits/](http://www.chwsd.org/toolkits/).