

Community Paramedic

Career Comparisons

	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW)	Community Paramedic
Position Summary	A Certified 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. [1]	Community paramedics have completed a suitable educational program and shown competence in providing health education, monitoring, and amenities beyond conventional emergency care and transportation. Their particular roles are unique to each community's health needs together with public health and medical advice. [4]
Training and Prerequisites	- Completion of an approved training program for CHW Certification in South Dakota (200 hours of training and 40 hours of shadowing). - Obtain Certification as a Community Health Worker or Community Health Representative in South Dakota. [2]	Training requirements vary; there are no uniform community paramedics regulations.
Certificate/Licensure	CHWs and CHRs are certified through the Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota (CHWSD) on behalf of the South Dakota Department of Health and South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services. [2]	Varies from state to state.
Typical Supervisors	CHWs are primarily supervised by a clinic manager, nursing manager, or other organizational manager.	Supervised by physicians or advanced practice provider.
Median Hourly Wage (National) [3], [5]	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) – \$24.54	Community Paramedic - \$22.28

Sources:

[1] American Public Health Association. *Community Health Workers*. 2026. [Link](#)

[2] Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota. *CHW and CHR Certification*. 2026. [Link](#)

[3] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Community Health Workers*. August 2025. [Link](#)

[4] Rural Health Information Hub. *Community Paramedicine*. January 14, 2026. [Link](#)

[5] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *EMTs and Paramedics*. August 2025. [Link](#)