

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Career Comparisons

	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW)	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
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]	EMTs provide out of hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical services (EMS) system. EMTs have the basic knowledge and skills necessary to stabilize and safely transport patients ranging from non-emergency and routine medical transports to life threatening emergencies. [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 Work or Community Health Representative in South Dakota. [2]	- Complete state-approved EMT training program. - Possess a valid CPR certificate. - Qualify for the NREMT examination. 18 years old or older with high school diploma or GED. - Pass criminal background screening. [5]
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]	- Must obtain valid South Dakota license through SDDOH. [5] - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician- required to attend a state-approved, competency based training course in addition to the EMT training program. [6]
Typical Supervisors	CHWs are primarily supervised by a clinic manager, nursing manager, or other organizational manager.	Supervised by a provider (medical director) as well as an EMS manager. [8]
Median Hourly Wage (National) [3], [7]		
	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) – \$24.54	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – \$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] Top EMT Training. *EMT Job Description – Duties and Responsibilities of an EMT*. 2026. [Link](#)
- [5] EMT Training Station. *How Do I Become an EMT in South Dakota?* 2026. [Link](#)
- [6] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *How to Become an EMT or Paramedic*. August 2025. [Link](#)
- [7] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *EMTs and Paramedics*. August 2025. [Link](#)
- [8] South Dakota Department of Health. *Ambulance Services*. May 29, 2026. [Link](#)