

Registered Nurse (RN)

Career Comparisons

	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW)	Registered Nurse (RN)
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]	Observe and record patient behavior, do physical exams and diagnostic tests, patient and family counseling and education, administer medication, wound care, supervise other healthcare professionals, and conduct research. [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]	- Complete state approved professional nursing program. - Criminal background check. - High school diploma or GED for nursing program. [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]	RN License required by SDBON. [5]
Typical Supervisors	CHWs are primarily supervised by a clinic manager, nursing manager, or other organizational manager.	Supervised by Nurse Supervisors and Physicians. [5]
Median Hourly Wage (National) [3], [6]	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) – \$24.54	Registered Nurse (RN) – \$45.00

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] South Dakota Legislature. *Codified Laws*. n.d. [Link](#)
 [5] NursingLicensure.org. *Best LPN Programs in South Dakota 2026*. May 2025. [Link](#)
 [6] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Registered Nurses*. August 2025. [Link](#)