

Utah CHW 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 connector between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A community health worker is not necessarily a clinical professional but receives training to build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

Other names for CHWs:

Community-based doula
Community connector
Community health advocate
Community outreach worker
Family health advocate
HIV peer counselor
Lay health advisor
Maternal child health worker
Parent support partner
Patient advocate
Patient educator
Patient health navigator
Peer support specialist
Peer educator
Promotore(a)
Recovery coach
Wellness coach