

Our Partners Include

Employer Representatives

DotWell
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
Codman Square Health Center
Whittier Street Health Center
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
The PACT Project at Partners in Health/
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Refugee and Immigrant Health Program,
MA Dept. of Public Health
Latino American Health Institute
Boston Housing Authority
Boston Private Industry Council
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries
Boston Career Link
JobNet
ABCD Health Services

Education and Training Representatives

Community Health Education Center
Bunker Hill Community College
MassBay Community College
Urban College of Boston
UMass Boston
World Education, Inc.
The Medical Foundation
Creative Workplace Learning
JFY NetWorks
SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund
Ben Franklin Institute of Technology

Systems Change Advocacy Representatives

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Center for Community Health Education Research
and Service, Inc.
1199 SEIU

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*To access our services or find out more information,
please contact us at:*

The Community Health Worker Initiative of Boston
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Action for Boston
Community Development, Inc.



*Some pictures provided by the Community Health Education Center

Today, in Boston's inner-city neighborhoods, health care disparities plague our low-income children and families. Research shows that a key factor in changing this situation is the empowerment, upgrading and recognition of community health workers whose community-oriented knowledge base enables them to improve access to health care in underserved neighborhoods.

“I love my job. I care about my community, my people. I know I'm making a difference. Shouldn't there be opportunities for advancement for skilled, experienced community health workers?”

— Boston-area CHW

By offering services to community health workers and their employers, the CHW Initiative builds the capacity of the community health workforce, improves access to health care in Boston neighborhoods, and increases recognition of the important contributions of community health workers.



The Community Health Worker Initiative of Boston

**Building better jobs and
healthier communities**

What IS a Community Health Worker?

Community Health Workers (CHWs) often go by a variety of names: “outreach worker,” “case manager” or “program coordinator.” The work of these public health professionals means that children and families throughout Boston’s neighborhoods are provided with access to better health care and information. Through their unique understanding of the experiences, language and culture of the communities they serve, community health workers promote full and equal access to necessary health and social services.

The CHW Initiative Mission:

To enable community health workers access to education and skills training leading to sustainable jobs, living wages and career pathways, while promoting policies that ensure appropriate employer funding to achieve these goals.

The Community Health Worker Initiative provides services to CHWs and their employers to create career pathways and build a skilled workforce.

“Community health workers are an essential part of the public health system... they have the opportunity to dramatically improve access to health care for underserved populations.”

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health

What does the CHW Initiative offer to community health workers, to employers and to the community?

Community Health Workers:

- Assistance with developing a career plan
- Referrals to additional CHW training programs, including a new CHW Certificate Training Program
- Referrals to English classes or GED programs
- Help preparing for and enrolling in college
- Assistance in applying for financial aid
- Help supplementing income with support services, including fuel assistance, transportation, child care and more
- Opportunity to affect CHW policies

For more information:
617-348-6590, chwinfo@bostonabcd.org

CHW Employers:

- Free access to career counseling for CHW employees
- Expanded education and training opportunities for CHW employees, including credit for prior learning
- Assistance establishing practical CHW career pathways
- An annual CHW Employer Best Practices Forum
- Opportunities to help expand funding for CHW positions
- Benefits including better trained workforce and higher retention

The Community:

- A vehicle to improve access to health care
- Opportunities to help shape CHW policies in Massachusetts
- Potential to improve CHW education and training programs in Boston
- Participation in a nationally recognized CHW workforce development model
- Chance to build self-sufficiency of the CHW labor force

