

Community Health Worker

Community Health Workers provide a link between the community and healthcare professionals. They develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities. They collect data and discuss health concerns with members of specific populations or communities.

Duties

Community Health Workers typically do the following:

- Discuss health concerns with community members
- Educate people about the importance and availability of healthcare services, such as cancer screenings
- Collect data
- Report findings to health educators and other healthcare providers
- Provide informal counseling and social support
- Conduct outreach programs
- Facilitate access to the healthcare services
- Advocate for individual and community needs

Community Health Workers have an in-depth knowledge of the communities they serve. Within their community, they identify health-related issues, collect data, and discuss health concerns with the people they serve. For example, they may help eligible residents of a neighborhood enroll in programs such as Medicaid or Medicare and explain the benefits that these programs offer. Community Health Workers address any barriers to care and provide referrals for such needs as food, housing, education, and mental health services

Community Health Workers also advocate for the health needs of community members. In addition, they conduct outreach to engage community residents, assist residents with health system navigation, and to improve care coordination.

Work Environment

The largest employers of Community Health Workers are government, family service organizations and non-profits organizations, hospitals and outpatient care centers. Community Health Workers may spend much of their time in the field, communicating with community members, holding events, and collecting data.

Watch a video about being a Community Health Worker

Top Local Employers: Anthem, Inc., Working Partnerships USA

Median Pay

\$61,008

Job Growth (2020-2025)

15%



www.JobTrainWorks.org

Education and Training

Community Health Workers typically need to have at least a high school diploma, although some jobs may require some postsecondary education. Education programs may lead to a 1-year certificate or a 2-year associate degree and cover topics such as wellness, ethics, and cultural awareness. Community Health Workers usually have some knowledge of a specific community, culture, medical condition, or disability. The ability to speak a foreign language may be helpful.

Local Education:

Mission College

Rivet School

San Francisco City College

San Jose State University

For More Information:

American Public Health Organization

Bureau of Labor Statistics

