

Healthy Start Community Health Worker (CHW) Course Preview

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Presentation Objectives

- Describe CHWs' key roles, activities and job training in Healthy Start—looking across all grantees
- Introduce a CHW definition and set of core competencies specifically for Healthy Start CHWs
- Give an overview of content and structure of Healthy Start CHW course currently under construction
- Demonstrate course elements and activities

Highlights

Purpose of the Healthy Start Community Health Worker Course

Provide baseline (introductory) training toward the achievement of core competencies and perinatal health competencies needed to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a community health worker (CHW) in the Healthy Start program.

Findings from Grantee Survey

- Vast majority (91%) of Healthy Start program teams include CHWs
- Central activities of Healthy Start CHWs: health education, assessing participant needs, outreach and recruitment, connecting participants to services, helping participants navigate the health care system, and community engagement
- 89% of grantees provide entry level training for CHWs, with 32% providing 41-80 hours of training, and 49% providing more than 80 hours of training.

Healthy Start Community Health Worker (CHW) Definition

A frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has a unique understanding of the community served.

- The CHW will work to establish and maintain trust, enabling the CHW to serve as a liaison between health/social services and Healthy Start participants in the community. The CHW will facilitate access to services and work to provide high quality and culturally competent service delivery in their scope.

- A Healthy Start CHW also supports participant and community capacity, using their experience and knowledge, by increasing perinatal health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy.

Healthy Start CHW Core Competencies

Outline key skills and knowledge needed to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a Healthy Start CHW. The four categories of HS CHW Core Competencies include:

- **Healthy Start:** Healthy Start
- **Perinatal Health:** Preconception/Interconception Health, Prenatal Health, Postpartum Health, and Parenting and Child Development
- **CHW Roles:** Outreach, Participant Screening and Community Assessment, Health Education, Care Coordination, and Participant Empowerment and Community Engagement
- **Foundational Skills:** Effective Communication, Cultural Responsiveness and Mediation, and Public Health

Course Format and Parameters

- Online, self-paced
- 10 interactive modules with supplemental offline activities



- Option to complete all or some of the modules
- Course sign-in/progression tracking
- Badging for completion of modules/Certificate of completion for course
- Access course via Healthy Start EPIC website

Resources

- [Community Health Workers in Healthy Start](#) page on the Healthy Start EPIC Website
- [Healthy Start Community Health Worker Definition & Core Competencies](#)
- [Community Health Workers in Healthy Start: Findings from a National Survey](#)