

# Community health workers

Wisconsin's bridge to better health and health care

Community health workers (CHW) are vital to Wisconsin's public health and health care systems. Community health workers' lived experiences make them uniquely qualified to help others overcome challenges, access community resources, and navigate complex systems for care. They are trusted community members with a deep understanding of the culture, language, and needs of their community. Most of all, community health workers serve as the critical bridge connecting clients and providers, making them a powerful member of any health care team.



## The benefits of a powerful partnership!

Community health workers help improve:

### Access

CHWs are the link that connects individuals to the health care system by addressing barriers to care, like transportation, cultural or language differences, and poor access to resources.

### Care navigation

CHWs help clients schedule appointments, understand insurance and medical bills, and access financial assistance programs.

### Client understanding

CHWs help clients better understand their recommended health goals, conditions, treatment plans and options, and how to use health care systems more effectively.

### Well-being

CHWs are effective health educators on chronic disease management, nutrition, hygiene, family planning, and holistic care approaches that improve overall wellness.

### Preventative care

CHWs actively promote preventative care measures such as vaccinations, screenings, prenatal care, and regular check-ups. They also address factors that can affect everyone's health, such as the environments where they grow, live, and work.

### Community trust

CHWs create strong relationships with clients and build trust that helps them seek and follow medical advice and recommendations from health care professionals.

To learn more about the powerful impact partnering with community health workers can make, visit [dhs.wi.gov/chw](https://dhs.wi.gov/chw).

