



## Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program



Website - <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/chw.shtm>

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512/776-6663 or 512/776-2570

### Background

- 1999 – House Bill 1864 - Established the Promotor(a) Program Development Committee
- 2001 – Senate Bill 1051 - Directed the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop a training and certification program for promotores or community health workers
- Texas Health and Safety Code – Chapter 48 - Provides authority to the Texas Department of Health (now DSHS) to establish and operate a certification program for community health workers
- 2001 - Texas Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program implemented

### Purpose

- Requires certification for Promotores or Community Health Workers receiving compensation for services provided
- Provides certification for Texas residents:
  - Promotores or Community Health Workers
  - Instructors
  - Training Programs

### Definition

*"Promotor(a)" or "Community Health Worker"*--A person who, with or without compensation is a liaison and provides cultural mediation between health care and social services, and the community. A promotor(a) or community health worker: is a trusted member, and has a close understanding of, the ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, and life experiences of the community served. A promotor(a) or community health worker assists people to gain access to needed services and builds individual, community, and system capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, patient navigation and follow-up, community health education and information, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, and participation in clinical research.

### Core Competencies

- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Service coordination skills
- Capacity-building skills
- Advocacy skills
- Teaching skills
- Organizational skills
- Knowledge base

## **Program Status – as of October 1, 2014**

### **Certified Promotores or Community Health Workers**

- Approximately 3,000 certified promotores or community health workers
- Location - 125 counties – all Health Service Regions (HSR)
  - Counties with 10-19 certified promotores or Community Health Workers  
HSR 1 – Potter; HSR 2/3 – Collin, Kaufman; HSR 4/5N – Gregg, Jasper, Nacogdoches; HSR 7 – Hays, Williamson, HSR 8 – Val Verde, HSR 11 – San Patricio
  - Counties with 20-49 certified promotores or Community Health Workers  
HSR 2/3 – Denton; HSR 4/5N – Smith; HSR 6/5S – Brazoria, Galveston, Jefferson, Montgomery; HSR 7 – Brazos; HSR 8 – Maverick
  - Counties with 50 – 100 certified promotores or Community Health Workers  
HSR 1 – Lubbock, HSR 11 – Nueces, Webb
  - Counties with >100 promotores or Community Health Workers  
HSR 6/5S – Fort Bend; HSR 7 – Travis; HSR 11 – Cameron, Hidalgo
  - Counties with >200 certified promotores or Community Health Workers  
HSR 2/3 – Dallas, Tarrant; HSR 6/5S – Harris (approximately 800); HSR 8 – Bexar, HSR 9/10 – El Paso
- 2013 Annual Report <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/chw/workforce.aspx>

### **Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Advisory Committee**

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/chw/advMEM.aspx>

- Advise DSHS and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) related to the training and certification of persons working as Promotores or Community Health Workers
- Increase communication with community health workers.
- Identify and explore additional opportunities for outreach and information regarding the Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program and the work of the Advisory Committee
- Make recommendations to the department concerning qualifying training programs/ sponsoring organizations
- Increase access to community health worker certification training and continuing education
- Promote employment opportunities for community health workers and explore opportunities for sustainable funding of community health worker services.
- Nine members
  - 4 certified Promotores or Community Health Workers
  - 2 public members
  - 1 member with experience in adult education and training of Promotores or Community Health Workers
  - 2 professionals who work with Promotores or Community Health Workers