



Community Health Worker (CHW) Initial Certification Application

Certification Requirements

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Submit:
 - ▶ Proof of Texas residency (e.g., ID card, driver's license, lease agreement, or utility bill, mortgage statement, voter registration card, or insurance card).
 - ▶ Recent color photo that meets [photo requirements](#).
- Complete a DSHS-certified competency-based training (Option 1); or have at least 1,000 hours of experience (Option 2). This application includes both options, fill out only the sections that apply to you.
 - ▶ Option 1: Application based on completion of DSHS Certified Training Course of at least 180 hours
 - ◊ Fill out Section V if you completed a DSHS-approved CHW certification course relating to all nine (9) core competencies.
 - ◊ Submit the training course certificate of completion with your application.
 - ▶ Option 2: Application based on experience
 - ◊ Fill out Sections VI if you have at least 1,000 hours of CHW services in the previous three years.
 - ◊ List your work experience (volunteer or paid) for the previous three (3) years that demonstrates experience in the nine CHW Core competency areas.
 - ◊ Request an [experience verification form](#) from supervisor(s) or professional reference(s). The supervisor(s) or professional reference(s) listed on the application must submit the form to DSHS at CHW@dshs.texas.gov.
- Fill in all fields, do not leave any blanks. If necessary, answer with N/A (not applicable). Incomplete applications will be returned. Please print in ink or type all information.

Submitting the Application and Photo

Email the completed application and photo to chw@dshs.texas.gov or mail them to:

Texas Department of State Health Services

P.O. Box 149347 MC1965

Attn: CHW Training and Certification Program

Austin, Texas 78714-9347

You may also fax the completed application to 512-776-7555. Faxed photos will not be accepted.

Contact information

For questions or more information, please visit the [Community Health Worker Program website](#) or contact the CHW Program at chw@dshs.texas.gov or 512-467-6200.

Certification Approval

If your application is approved, your certification will be valid for two (2) years. Send changes to your mailing address and contact information to chw@dshs.texas.gov.

Certification Denial

DSHS may deny your application for certification for the following reasons, including but not limited to:

- Your application is incomplete.
- You do not meet the requirements for CHW certification listed in [25 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 146](#) or [CHW or Promotor\(a\) Training and Certification Program \(CHW Program\) Policy](#).
- You have provided false information on the application.

Important Information

DSHS will mail your notice of certification and any correspondence to the address listed on your application. Keep a copy of all information and the completed application for certification for your records. By Texas law, your name, certification type, number, and status are public records. For more information, please go to CHW Program [Protected Information webpage](#).

Core Competencies

Communication Skills

- Understand basic principles of verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Listen actively, communicate with empathy, and gather information in a respectful manner.
- Use language confidently and appropriately.
- Identify barriers to communication.
- Give information to clients and groups in a clear and concise way.
- Speak and write in client's preferred language and at appropriate literacy level.
- Document activities and services and prepare written documentation.
- Collect data and provide feedback to health and human services agencies, funding sources, and community-based organizations.
- Gather information in a respectful manner.
- Assist in interpreting and/or translating health information.

Interpersonal and Relationship-Building Skills

- Represent others, their needs, and needs of the community.
- Be sensitive, honest, respectful, and empathetic.

- Establish relationships and assist in individual and group conflict resolution.
- Understand basic principles of culture, cultural competency, and cultural humility.
- Recognize and appropriately respond to the beliefs, values, cultures, and languages of the populations served.
- Set personal and professional boundaries and respect professional standards.
- Provide informal counseling.
- Use interviewing techniques (e.g., motivational interviewing).
- Work as a team member.
- Act within Professional and Ethical Standards in [Texas Administrative Code, Section 146.7](#)
- Maintain confidentiality of client information and act within the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.
- Model behavior change.
- Network with peer CHWs in CHW associations/groups.

Service Coordination and Navigation Skills

- Identify and access resources and maintain a current resource inventory.
- Help improve access to resources.
- Conduct outreach to encourage participation in health events.
- Coordinate CHW activities with clinical and other community services.
- Develop networks to address community needs.
- Coordinate appropriate referrals, follow-up, track care and referral outcomes.
- Help others navigate services and resources in health and human services systems.
- Provide education, assessment and social support to clients and communities.
- Plan and facilitate individual and organizational goals and/or group action plan and goal attainment.

Capacity-Building Skills

- Identify problems and resources to encourage and help clients solve problems themselves.
- Collaborate with local partnerships to improve services, network, and build community connections.
- Learn new and better ways of serving the community through formal and informal training.
- Assess the strengths and needs of the community.
- Build leadership skills for yourself and others in the community.
- Facilitate support groups,
- Organize with others in the community to address health issues or other needs/concerns.
- Collect and use information from and with community members.

Advocacy Skills

- Participate in organizing others, use existing resources, and current data to promote a cause.
- Identify and work with advocacy groups.

- Inform health and social service systems and carry out mandatory reporting requirements.
- Stay abreast of structural and policy changes in the community and in health and social services systems.
- Speak up for individuals or communities to overcome intimidation and other barriers.
- Utilize coping strategies for managing stress and staying healthy.

Teaching and Education Skills

- Use methods that promote learning and positive behavior change.
- Use a variety of interactive teaching and coaching methods for different learning styles and ages.
- Organize presentation materials.
- Identify and explain training and education goals and objectives.
- Plan and lead classes.
- Evaluate the success of an educational program and measure the progress of individual learners.
- Use audiovisual materials and equipment to enhance teaching.
- Prepare and distribute education materials and present at community events.
- Facilitate group discussions and decision making in ways that engage and motivate learners.

Organizational Skills

- Plan and set individual and organization goals.
- Plan and set up presentations, educational/training sessions, workshops, and other activities.
- Effectively manage time and prioritize activities yet stay flexible.
- Maintain and contribute to a safe working environment.
- Gather, document, and report on activities within legal and organization guidelines.

Knowledge Base on Specific Health Issues

- Gain and share basic knowledge of the community, health and social services, specific health issues.
- Understand non-medical drivers of health and health disparities.
- Stay current on health issues affecting clients and know where to find answers to difficult questions.
- Understand consumer rights pertaining to federal and state regulators and adherence to ethical standards.
- Find information on specific health topics and issues across all ages [lifespan focus], including healthy lifestyles, maternal and child health, heart disease and stroke, diabetes, cancer, oral health, and behavioral health, etc.
- Use and apply public health concepts.

Evaluation and Research Skills

- Identify important concerns and conduct evaluation and research to better understand root causes.
- Apply the evidence-based practices of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Participatory Action Research (PAR).
- Participate in evaluation and research processes.
- Participate in individual assessment through observation and active inquiry.
- Participate in community assessment through observation and active inquiry.
- Collaborate with other educators.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Initial Certification Application

Section I. Personal Information

Name (Last, First, Middle):

Home Address: Street Address/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip Code

County

(Check if it is the same as Home Address)

Mailing Address: Street Address/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip Code

County

Cell Phone:

Home Phone:

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year):

Sex:

Female

Male

No personal email

Personal email:

Race

American Indian/Alaskan

Asian

Black/African American

White

Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Other (Specify):

Ethnicity

Hispanic

Not Hispanic

Language(s) Used**English:**

Speak

Read

Write

Spanish:

Speak

Read

Write

Other Language:

Speak

Read

Write

Preferred Language for Correspondence:

English

Spanish

Section II: Education**Highest Level of Education Completed (check one):**

Kindergarten – 12th Grade

High School Graduate or GED

Junior College or Technical Degree

Some College

College/University Degree

Advanced Degree such as Master's or Doctoral

Section III. State of Texas Professional License / Certificate

Do you hold any other current State of Texas professional or national license/certificate?

Yes

No

If yes, provide details below:

Other Texas License/Certificate Name:

Certificate Number:

Other Certificate Name:

Certificate Number:

Section IV. Current Employment or Volunteer Work

Employment Type: (select one)

Employment

Volunteer

None

Is this a Promotor(a)/CHW Position?

Yes

No

Organization Information (Volunteer or Employment)

Name of Organization:

Address (Street Address/P.O. Box:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

County:

Supervisor's Name:

Supervisor's Title:

Type of Organization (check one):

Community-Based Organization

College/University/School

Faith-Based Organization

Local Health Department

State Agency

Retail/Manufacturing

Non-Profit Organization

Insurance/Health Plan

Home Health/Long Term Care Facility

Clinic/Hospital/Emergency Service

Other (specify):

Employment Details

Current Job Title:

Applicant's Work Phone:

Applicant's Work E-mail Address:

Work Status:

Full Time

Part Time

Salary per Hour:

< \$9.00

\$9.00–\$15.00

\$15.01–\$25.00

\$25.01 or more

Section V — Application Based on Completion of DSHS-Approved CHW Certified Training Course of at Least 180 Hours

Date training completed (Month/Day/Year):

Certificate Attached

DSHS-Certified Training Program (Sponsoring Organization):

CHW Instructor:

Training Location (City):

Distance Learning

Note: Skip to Section VII if applying based on completion of a DSHS-approved training course.

Section VI. Application Based on Experience

Date(s) of Experience

Start Date (Month/Year):

End Date (Month/Year):

Organization Information

Name of Organization/Agency:

Applicant's Job Title:

Name of Supervisor:

Supervisor's Title:

Supervisor's Telephone:

Ext:

Agency's Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Do you have at least 1,000 hours of CHW service?

Yes

No

If no, how many hours?

Work experience in the following community health worker or promotor(a) skill areas:

Check all that apply below. You must meet at least half of the skills under each core competency.

Communication

Understand basic principles of verbal and non-verbal communication.

Listen actively, communicate with empathy, and gather information in a respectful manner.

Use language confidently and appropriately.

Identify barriers to communication.

Give information to clients and groups in a clear and concise way.

Speak and write in client's preferred language and at appropriate literacy level

Document activities and services and prepare written documentation.

Collect data and provide feedback to health and human services agencies, funding sources, and community-based organizations.

Gather information in a respectful manner.

Assist in interpreting and/or translating health information.

Interpersonal and Relationship-Building

Represent others, their needs, and needs of the community.

Be sensitive, honest, respectful, and empathetic.

Establish relationships and assist in individual and group conflict resolution.

Understand basic principles of culture, cultural competency, and cultural humility.

Recognize and appropriately respond to the beliefs, values, cultures, and languages of the populations served.

Set personal and professional boundaries and respect professional standards.

Provide informal counseling.

Use interviewing techniques (e.g., motivational interviewing).

Work as a team member.

Act within Professional and Ethical Standards in [Texas Administrative Code, Section 146.7](#).

Maintain confidentiality of client information and act within the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.

Model behavior change.

Network with peer CHWs in CHW associations/groups.

Service Coordination and Navigation

Identify and access resources and maintain a current resource inventory.

Help improve access to resources.

Conduct outreach to encourage participation in health events.

Coordinate CHW activities with clinical and other community services.

Develop networks to address community needs.

Coordinate appropriate referrals, follow-up, track care and referral outcomes.

Help others navigate services and resources in health and human services systems.

Provide education, assessment and social support to clients and communities.

Plan and facilitate individual and organizational goals and/or group action plan and goal attainment

Capacity-Building

Identify problems and resources to encourage and help clients solve problems themselves.

Collaborate with local partnerships to improve services, network, and build community connections.

Learn new and better ways of serving the community through formal and informal training.

Assess the strengths and needs of the community.

Build leadership skills for yourself and others in the community.

Facilitate support groups.

Organize with others in the community to address health issues or other needs/concerns.

Collect and use information from and with community members.

Advocacy

Participate in organizing others, use existing resources, and current data to promote a cause.

Identify and work with advocacy groups.

Inform health and social service systems and carry out mandatory reporting requirements.

Stay abreast of structural and policy changes in the community and in health and social services systems.

Speak up for individuals or communities to overcome intimidation and other barriers.

Utilize coping strategies for managing stress and staying healthy.

Teaching and Education

Use methods that promote learning and positive behavior change.

Use a variety of interactive teaching and coaching methods for different learning styles and ages.

Organize presentation materials.

Identify and explain training and education goals and objectives.

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Evaluate the success of an educational program and measure the progress of individual learners.

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Organizational Skills

Plan and set individual and organization goals.

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Use and apply public health concepts.

Evaluation and Research

Identify important concerns and conduct evaluation and research to better understand root causes.

Apply the evidence-based practices of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Participatory Action Research (PAR).

Participate in evaluation and research processes.

Participate in individual assessment through observation and active inquiry.

Participate in community assessment through observation and active inquiry.

Collaborate with other educators.

Section VII — Applicant Signature

Applicants must complete and sign their own application. Please read the following statements carefully. Sign or type your name below to indicate you're understanding and acceptance of these statements in the space provided.

- I certify that all the information provided by me in connection with this application is true and complete.
- I understand providing false or misleading information which is used in determining my qualifications may result in the voiding of the application and failure to be granted any certificate or the revocation of any certificate issued.
- I agree to abide by [Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48](#) and the rules regarding the training and certification of CHWIs, [25 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 146](#). I give DSHS permission to verify any information or references which are important in determining my qualifications.
- I give DSHS permission to verify any information or references, which are important in determining my qualification.
- I will return the certificate and identification card(s) to DSHS upon the expiration, revocation, or suspension of the certificate.
- I understand the application and supporting documentation submitted become the property of DSHS and are nonreturnable.
- I shall advise DSHS of my current address within 30 days of any changes of address.
- I acknowledge that this Application for Certification is not a contract between me and DSHS and does not make me an employee, agent, contractor, or representative of DSHS.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

DSHS awards certification to CHWs with necessary skills and competencies based on completion of required training and/or relevant experience. Employers are responsible for verification of applicants' personal or background information.

Privacy Notification

With few exceptions, you have the right to request and be informed about information that the State of Texas collects about you. You are entitled to receive and review the information upon request. You also have the right to ask the state agency to correct any information that is determined to be incorrect. See [dshs.texas.gov](https://www.dshs.texas.gov) for more information on Privacy Notification. (Reference: Government Code, Section 552.021, 552.023, 559.003 and 559.004.)