



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

2021 Annual Report

Promotora or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program

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Prepared by DSHS Promotora
or Community Health Worker Training
and Certification Program

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Executive Summary

This annual report presents data related to Community Health Worker (CHW) and CHW Instructor (CHWI) certification, renewal rates, and trends, as well as a description of initial certification and continuing education courses for CHWs and CHWIs. This report provides information on demographic characteristics, the location of certified CHWs and training programs in Texas, and program outcomes. The CHW Program supports the Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Advisory Committee as mandated by [Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48](#).

In 2021, the Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) Promotora or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program (CHW Program):

- Led the solicitation process to fill vacancies in the Promotora or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Advisory Committee.
- Maintained the online application to ensure CHWs can navigate and utilize the system.

In 2022, the CHW program plans to:

- Resume mailing out the hard copy certification packets including the approval letters, identification badges and certificates to CHWs and CHWIs certified by DSHS.
- Develop guidelines for creating quality CHWI continuing education curricula.

As of December 31, 2021, there were 4,208 certified CHWs in Texas. This is an increase of 11% compared to 3,776 certified CHWs at the end of 2020. The percentage of CHWs renewing their DSHS certifications increased from 46 percent in 2020 to 50 percent in 2021.

In 2021, there were a total of 384 certified CHWIs, including 116 newly certified CHWIs. This is an increase of 84% from the 63 newly certified CHWIs in 2020. The number of CHWIs who did not renew their certification increased from 39 in 2020 to 43 in 2021.

Last year, 897 individuals graduated from DSHS-approved CHW certification training programs. Additionally, DSHS-approved training programs provided 294

continuing education opportunities for CHWs, offering over 800 DSHS-certified contact hours to 14,687 participants. Not all participants attending continuing education events were certified CHWs. Also, training programs provided 104 continuing education opportunities for CHWIs both in-person and via distance learning.

The CHW Program helps to increase awareness of CHW roles in Texas and assists CHWs in creating healthier communities.

It estimates that the number of certified CHWs will continue to grow as CHWs are increasingly integrated in health and social service systems across the state.

1. Introduction

In 2001, Texas was the first state to put in place statewide training and credentialing standards for promotores or community health workers (CHWs). As mandated by [Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48](#), The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) established the Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program (CHW Program). More information on the CHW Program can be found at dshs.texas.gov/chw.aspx.

The CHW Program operates and oversees the development and implementation of statewide training and certification standards, guidelines, and requirements for individuals who are certified as CHWs, community health worker instructors (CHWIs), and CHW training programs.

This report will evaluate the CHW Program certification and renewal rates and trends, as well as initial certification and continuing education courses for CHWs and CHWIs. This report also tracks data on CHW and CHWI demographic characteristics and the location of certified CHWs and training programs in Texas.

2. Background

Community Health Workers (CHWs), also known as Promotores de Salud, are individuals who serve as liaisons and cultural mediators between health care and social services in the communities they serve. CHWs are members of the community that have a deep understanding of the ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, and life experiences of the community members. CHWs assist people with access to services and build individual, community, and system capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through various activities. CHWs have skills in the following eight core competencies: communication, interpersonal skills, service coordination, capacity building, advocacy, teaching, organizational skills, and knowledge base in specific health issues. The [Summary of the National Community Health Advisor Study](#) gives a detailed summary of the core competencies.

[House Bill 1864, 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999](#), directed the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish a temporary committee to study issues related to the development of outreach and education programs for CHWs, making Texas the first state to pass legislation towards creating a statewide CHW training and certification program.

[Senate Bill 1051, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001](#), DSHS established the CHW Program in May 2001. Senate Bill 1051 directed DSHS to develop the program to enhance the development and implementation of statewide training and certification standards.

The CHW Program is overseen by the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention (HPCDP) Section in the Division for Community Health Improvement (CHI) at DSHS. The CHW Program is supported by Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funding to the State. There are currently six full time employees who support the functions of the program.

CHW certification is based on the completion of a Texas DSHS core competency certification course or through verified CHW experience of at least 1,000 hours in the last three years. All certified CHWs must show that they have mastered the eight CHW core competencies.

The CHW Program also oversees certification for CHWIs and training programs. Training programs include community colleges, other academic institutions, Area Health Education Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, a CHW network, and

community-based organizations that train CHWs and CHWIs. It reviews and approves certification, training, and continuing education for CHWs and CHWIs.

As required by [Government Code, Section 2001.039](#), DSHS reviews the rules governing the administration of the CHW Program ([25 Texas Administrative Code, Rules 146.1-146.8](#)) every four years. The administrative rules provide the guidelines for operating the training and certification program for CHWs, CHWIs, and training programs. The most recent adopted rules were implemented in September 2019. Key revisions of the CHW certification standards include CHW certification eligibility at 16 years old and requiring experience used for certification to have occurred in the previous three years. The certification eligibility, specific to age 16, aligns with Texas work laws and allows adolescents to seek CHW status to support health initiatives for their peers. Reducing certification eligibility based on experience to the previous three years ensures applicant's experience and skills align with current practices and standards.

Texas DSHS is committed to enhancing training and professional development of CHWs and supporting CHW services across Texas. Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of Texas DSHS, acknowledged CHWs and promotores as an instrumental workforce in public health in a [video](#) developed by DSHS. CHWs are essential in bringing positive health outcomes, changing health behaviors, and encouraging healthy lifestyles in Texas communities.

3. Program Milestones and Outcomes

This section presents information on the following key statistics regarding the volume of initial and renewal applications, continuing education courses certified by the CHW Program, and continued growth of the CHW infrastructure in Texas:

- The number of DSHS certified CHWs.
- The number of DSHS certified CHWIs.
- The number of certification renewals.
- The number of DSHS certified training programs; and,
- Certified continuing education.

DSHS-Certified Community Health Workers

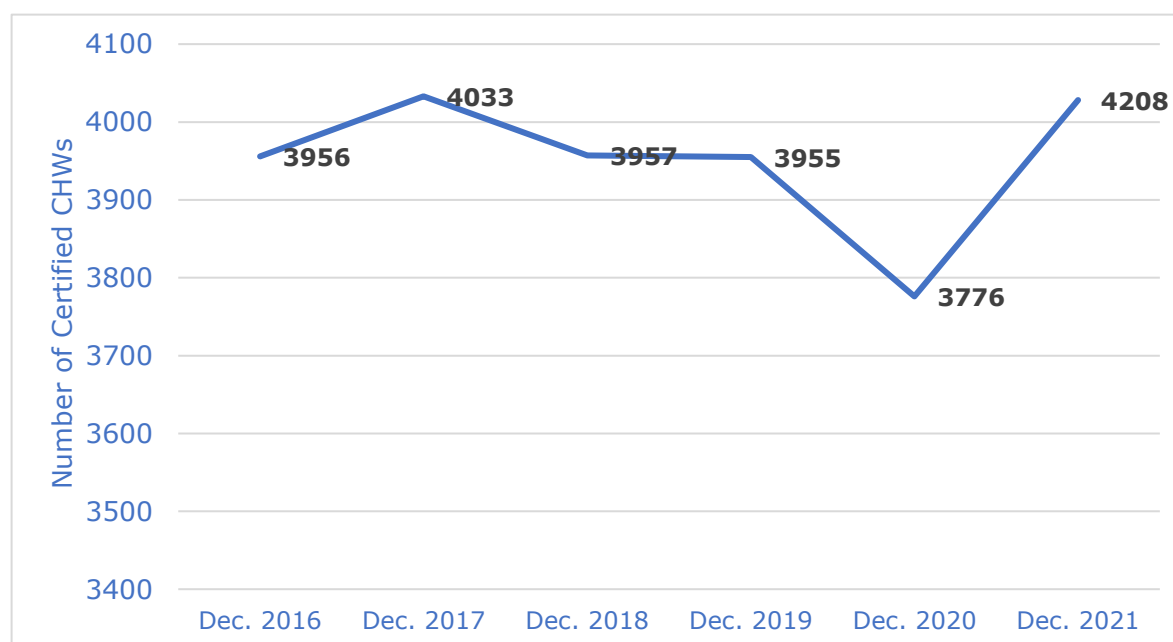
CHWs are eligible to be certified in Texas by completing a DSHS-certified training course of at least 160 hours or based on experience through verification of at least 1,000 hours of community health work experience demonstrating mastery in the eight core competencies in the most recent three years.

The CHW Program approves applications for initial CHW certification based on training or experience. The CHW application data is entered and collected into the DSHS Regulatory Automated Services (RAS) Portal and Versa Regulatory (VR) database. This is an internal database for processing of applications and running reports on the number of CHWs certified by DSHS each year.

At the end of 2021, there were 4,208 certified CHWs, which is an increase of 11 percent compared to 3,776 certified CHWs at the end of 2020 ([Figure 1](#)).

A total of 1,287 new CHWs were certified in 2021 compared to 2020 when 742 new CHWs received their certification. Out of all the new CHWs certified in 2021, 779 (61 percent) were certified through training. The remaining 508 (39 percent) were certified based on experience.

Figure 1. Number of Certified CHWs, 2016-2021ⁱ



ⁱ Source: DSHS RAS Portal and VR Database

Community Health Worker Certification Training Graduates

CHW certification training programs graduated 897 individuals in 2021. The number of graduates increased significantly compared to 2020 when 723 individuals graduated from a DSHS-approved CHW certification training program. The number of certification training courses and graduates by county¹ can be found in [Appendix A.](#)

DSHS-Certified Community Health Worker Instructors

CHW Instructors (CHWIs) can be certified in Texas by completing a DSHS-certified instructor training course of at least 160 hours or based on experience through verification of at least 1,000 hours of providing training to CHWs or other health care professionals and paraprofessionals in the last three years.

¹ In Texas, the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment service (EPSDT) is known as Texas Health Steps, which includes the preventive care components, or Early and Periodic Screening, of the total EPSDT service.

Community Health Worker Instructors Newly Certified in 2021

As of December 31, 2021, there were 384 certified CHWIs as compared to 295 at the end of 2020. The number of newly certified CHWIs increased in 2021 by 84 percent, a total of 116, from the 63 newly certified Instructors in 2020. Of the newly certified CHWIs, 35 (30 percent) were certified based on experience and 81 (70 percent) were certified based on completion of training. The percentage of newly certified CHWIs based on completion of training increased from 59 percent to 70 percent in 2021.

Community Health Worker Instructor Certification Training Graduates

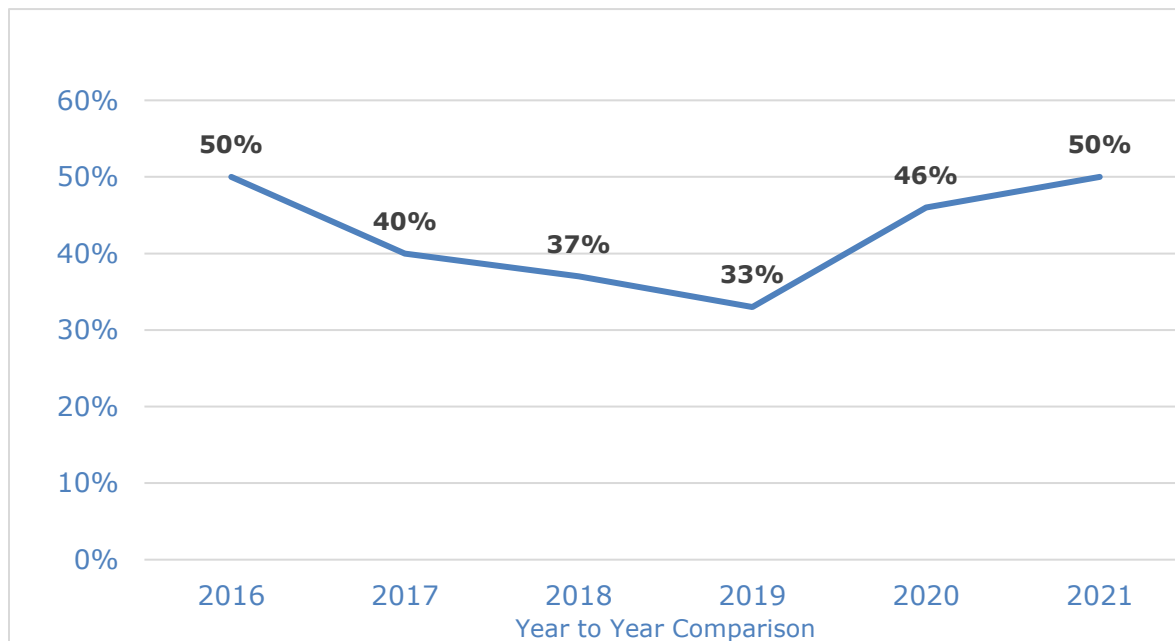
In 2021, there were 66 graduates of DSHS-approved CHWI certification training programs. This an increase of 74 percent from the 38 graduates from DSHS-approved instructor certification training programs in 2020.

CHW and Instructor Certification Renewals and Expirations

CHWs must complete at least 20 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their certificates, including at least 10 DSHS-certified contact hours. CHWs may renew a certificate that has been expired for less than one year by submitting a renewal application documenting the completion of the required continuing education. The percentage of CHWs renewing their DSHS certifications increased from 46 percent in 2020 to 50 percent in 2021 ([Figure 2](#)).

A total of 986 CHW certifications expired in 2021 - a slight decrease from 2020 when 1,059 certifications expired. Certifications that expired in 2021 were mostly for CHWs initially certified in 2019 (58 percent). Of those expired in 2021, 49 percent of individuals were certified based on experience, while 51 percent were certified based on completion of training programs.

Figure 2. CHW Renewal Rates, 2016-2021ⁱ



ⁱ Source: DSHS RAS Portal and VR Database

There is a difference in the number of expired certifications in 2021 by CHWs language preference ([Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#)). Expired CHW certification based on training where Spanish was the preferred language accounted for a higher percentage (77 percent) of expired certifications than those with English as a preferred language (47 percent). Expired CHW certifications initially certified based on experience were higher for those with English as the preferred language (53 percent) than those with Spanish as a preferred language (23 percent).

Table 1 2021 Expired CHW Certifications by Preferred Languageⁱ (English)

CHW Certification	English	English Percentage
Experience	451	53
Training	402	47
Total	853	100

ⁱ Source: DSHSRAS Portal and VR Database

Table 2 2021 Expired CHW Certifications by Preferred Languageⁱ (Spanish)

CHW Certification	Spanish	Spanish Percentage
Experience	31	23
Training	102	77
Total	133	100

ⁱ Source: DSHS RAS Portal and VR Database

Community Health Worker Instructor Renewals and Expired Certificates

A CHWI may renew a certificate if a renewal application is submitted within one year of the expiration date and documents the completion of the required continuing education.

In 2021, 65 percent of CHWIs renewed their certification compared to 75 percent in 2020. 47 percent CHWIs who were first certified in 2019 allowed their certification to expire in 2021. There were 43 certified CHWIs who did not renew their instructor certifications in 2021, compared to 38 in 2020.

DSHS-Certified Training Programs

Organizations approved to provide training for CHWs and CHWIs include community colleges, other academic centers such as health science centers, Area Health Education Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, regional CHW associations, and community-based programs.

CHWs residing in rural areas may be unable to attend on-site training located in urban areas. Some training programs provide in-person training in areas other than their primary locations to address this. Additionally, several training programs have implemented training through distance learning to increase access for CHWs in all parts of the state.

Training programs have expanded the availability of certification training courses and continuing education opportunities for CHWs and CHWIs. As of December 31, 2021, there were 49 DSHS certified training programs in Texas.

In 2021, the training programs provided both CHW and CHWI certification training courses and continuing education to fulfill continuing education requirements. [Table 3](#) breaks down the number of training programs by type of certified training provided: CHW and/or CHWI certification course and CHW and/or CHWI continuing education.

Table 3: 2021 Type of Training Delivered by DSHS-Certified Training Programs

Type of Certified Training	# Training Programs
CHW Certification Training Course and Certified Continuing Education	17
CHW Certification Training Course and CHW and CHWI Certified Continuing Education	6
CHW and CHWI Certification Training Courses and CHW and CHWI Certified Continuing Education	7
Certified CHW Continuing Education Only	10
Certified CHW and CHWI Continuing Education Only	9
Total	49

[Texas Health Steps](#) offers free online modules for healthcare providers, including CHWs and CHWIs.² These courses offer updated clinical, regulatory, and best practice guidelines for a range of topics including preventive health, oral health, mental health, and case management. In 2021, Crew Wellness LLC, Dell Medical

² In Texas, the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment service (EPSDT) is known as Texas Health Steps, which includes the preventive care components, or Early and Periodic Screening, of the total EPSDT service.

School Department of Population Health, Texas Association of CHWs, Texas Southern University, and Valley AIDS Council were approved to provide continuing education for both CHWs and CHWIs.

Texas Education Agency, Region 10 Education Service Center, and Umemba Health, LLC, were approved to provide certification training courses and continuing education to both CHWs and CHWIs. University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth was also approved to provide certification training courses and continuing education to CHWs.

Opportunities for Certified Continuing Education

In 2021, DSHS-approved training programs provided 294 continuing education opportunities for CHWs, offering over 800 DSHS-certification hours in the form of face-to-face events and mostly distance learning continuing education.

[Appendix B](#) provides a breakdown of providers and continuing education hours provided. Training occurred in six counties through distance learning. These CEU courses reached far beyond our certified CHWs in Texas! Over 14,687 unduplicated participants attended DSHS-certified continuing education in 2021. While all participants included in this total self-identified as a Community Health Worker during registration, they were not all DSHS-certified CHWs. This total includes non-certified/expired CHWs, and workers in fields that closely align with the work of CHWs, among other groups.

DSHS-approved training programs provided 104 continuing education opportunities for CHWIs in 2021, offering 247.5 DSHS-certified CHWI contact hours.

Distance learning opportunities were available for instructor continuing education. [Appendix C](#) shows additional information about certified continuing education for CHWIs provided in 2021.

Community Mapping

Location of DSHS-Certified Community Health Workers

As of December 31, 2021, Texas had 4,208 certified CHWs in 143 counties (by county of residence). Harris County has the most certified CHWs with 1,071 and Dallas County has the second largest number of certified CHWs with 363.

[Appendix D shows](#) a map of counties with certified CHWs.

Certified Community Health Worker Demographics

Approximately 89 percent of Texas certified CHWs are women and 11 percent are men. Certified CHWs in Texas are racially and ethnically diverse. [Table 4](#) breaks down CHW demographics by race ethnicity and gender.

Table 4: Race/Ethnicity Breakdown for Certified CHWs, By Genderⁱ

Ethnicity	Percentage	Male	Female	Total
Hispanic	61	63	2502	2,565
Black	22	89	829	918
White	11	68	380	448
Asian	5	5	214	219
Native American	(<1)	4	12	16
Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islander	(<1)	0	1	1
Other	1	3	38	41
Total		232	3,976	4,208

ⁱ Source: DSHSRAS Portal and VR Database

DSHS-Certified Instructors Location and Demographics

Texas had 384 certified CHWIs in 41 counties (based on county of residence) as of December 31, 2021. Approximately 90 percent of Texas CHWIs are women and 10 percent are men. Certified CHWIs in Texas are racially and ethnically diverse:

- Hispanic - 52 percent
- White – 20 percent
- Black - 25 percent
- Asian - two percent
- Other - one percent

DSHS-Certified Training Programs

There were 49 CHW and CHWI training programs in 20 counties across the state by the end of 2021. The [Map of Counties with CHW Training Programs](#) shows a map of counties with a CHW training program.

4. Conclusion

The Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program continues to create awareness and promote CHW and CHWI workforce to the public and employers. CHWs and CHWIs are represented in communities both rural and urban throughout the state. Texans benefit from this highly effective and robust program statewide. Access to education, training, certification, and resources continues to be a hallmark of this seasoned program. CHWs and CHWIs are essential in bringing positive health outcomes, changing health behaviors, and encouraging healthy lifestyles in Texas communities.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
CHW	Community Health Worker
CHWI	Community Health Worker Instructor
DSHS	Texas Department of State Health Services
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
RAS	Regulatory Automated Services
VR	Versa Regulatory

Appendix A. CHW Certification Trainingⁱ

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	Graduates
2/3	Dallas	Baylor Scott & White Health and Wellness Center	21
2/3	Tarrant	Baylor Scott & White Health and Wellness Center	11
6/5S	Harris	Baylor Scott & White Health and Wellness Center	6
8	Bexar	Baylor Scott & White Health and Wellness Center	3
11	Hidalgo	South Texas College	9
11	Hidalgo	Texas A&M University Colonias Program Training Academy	6
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Baylor Scott & White Health and Wellness Center	57
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Community Health Training Institute, Inc.	4
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Dallas College (El Centro)	6
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Día de la Mujer Latina, Inc.	59
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Empowering the Masses	10
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Familias Triunfadoras, Inc.	32
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	LW School of Pharmacy	2
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Houston Community College	8
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Northwest Vista College	15
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Center for Community Health Development, National CHW Training Center, Texas A&M School of Public Health	114
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center - Capital	21

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	Graduates
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center - DFW	5
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center East – Coastal	7
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center East – Greater Houston	25
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center East – Piney Woods	18
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center South – Coastal	147
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Tech Health Sciences Center – School of Nursing	7
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Umemba Health, LLC	8
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Houston Honors College CHW Program	145
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler	63
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston	52
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	West Texas Area Health Education Center	36

Total CHW Graduates: 897

ⁱ Source: DSHS Share Point Site, CHW Training Site

Appendix B. Certified Continuing Education for CHWsⁱ

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	# of CEU classes offered	# of CEU contact hours	# of participants
2/3	Tarrant	Familias Triunfadoras, Inc.	2	3	40
2/3	Tarrant	Community Health Training Institute, Inc.	1	2	3
4/5N	Tyler	University of Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth	1	1	24
4/5N	Tyler	University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler	3	17	19
9/10	El Paso	Día de la Mujer Latina, Inc.	2	6	23
9/10	El Paso	Adults and Youth United Development Association, Inc.	8	96	198
9/10	El Paso	Familias Triunfadoras, Inc.	7	10	160
9/10	El Paso	DSHS Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)	2	10	9
9/10	El Paso	Texas A&M University Colonias Program Training Academy	12	51	412
11	Cameron	South Texas Promotor(a) Association, Inc.	8	9	164
11	Hidalgo	South Texas Promotor(a) Association, Inc.	2	9	20
11	Hidalgo	Texas A&M University Colonias Program Training Academy	9	24	284
11	Hidalgo	Valley AIDS Council	2	28	37
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Cardea Services	37	146	4,641
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Baylor Scott & White Health and Wellness Center	7	15.75	181
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Community Health Training Institute, Inc.	2	8	31

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	# of CEU classes offered	# of CEU contact hours	# of participants
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Center for Community Health Development, National CHW Training Center	8	12	611
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Día de la Mujer Latina, Inc.	10	41	618
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	DSHS Office of Border Public Health	19	82.5	355
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Empowering the Masses, Inc.	3	4.5	209
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Familias Triunfadoras, Inc.	4	6	49
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	HHS Early Childhood Intervention	1	1	26
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Northwest Vista College	10	15	266
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas A&M Colonias Program Training Academy	3	8	159
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas A&M School of Public Health, Office of Special Programs	15	43	1,344
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center East – Coastal	6	9	282
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center DFW	9	12	211
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Area Health Education Center South – Coastal	28	49	907
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Association of CHWs	17	19	1,191
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Health Steps	30	41.75	904
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Texas Tech Health Sciences Center – School of Nursing	4	13	235

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	# of CEU classes offered	# of CEU contact hours	# of participants
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth	1	1	10
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler	2	10	38
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston	12	16	622
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	University of Houston Honors College, CHW Program	4	8.5	306
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	Valley AIDS Council	1	6	26
Distance Learning	Not Applicable	West Texas Area Health Education Center	2	18	72

TOTALS: Classes – 294, Contact Hours – 852, Participants – 14,697

ⁱ Source: DSHS Share Point Site, CHW Training Site

Appendix C. Certified Continuing Education for Instructorsⁱ

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	# of CEU classes offered	# of CEU contact hours	# of participants
9/10	El Paso	Día de la Mujer Latina, Inc.	1	3	1
9/10	El Paso	DSHS Office of Border Public Health	1	3	1
9/10	El Paso	Texas A&M University Colonias Program Training Academy	3	9	6
11	Cameron	South Texas Promotora Association, Inc.	8	10	14
11	Hidalgo	Texas A&M University Colonias Program Training Academy	3	6	8
Distance Learning	N/A	Cardea Services	9	13	185
Distance Learning	N/A	Día de la Mujer Latina, Inc.	1	3	2
Distance Learning	N/A	DSHS Office of Border Public Health	16	103.5	78
Distance Learning	N/A	Empowering the Masses	1	1.5	9
Distance Learning	N/A	Houston Community College	1	1	7
Distance Learning	N/A	Texas A&M University Colonias Program Training Academy	6	21	57
Distance Learning	N/A	Texas Area Health Education Center - DFW	6	8	29
Distance Learning	N/A	Texas Area Health Education Center East-Coastal	2	3	46

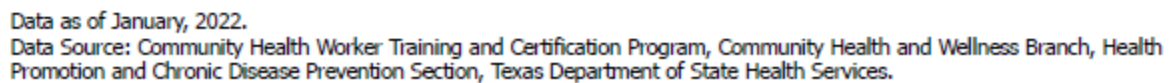
ⁱ Source: DSHS Share Point Site, CHW Training Site

Health Service Region	County	Name of Training Program	# of CEU classes offered	# of CEU contact hours	# of participants
Distance Learning	N/A	Texas Association of CHWs	13	15	67
Distance Learning	N/A	University of Houston Honors College CHW Program	2	5.5	22
Distance Learning	N/A	University of Texas Health Science Center Fort Worth	1	1	6
Distance Learning	N/A	Texas Health Steps	30	41	Counted in Appendix B.

TOTALS: Classes – 104, Contact Hours – 247.5, Participants – 538

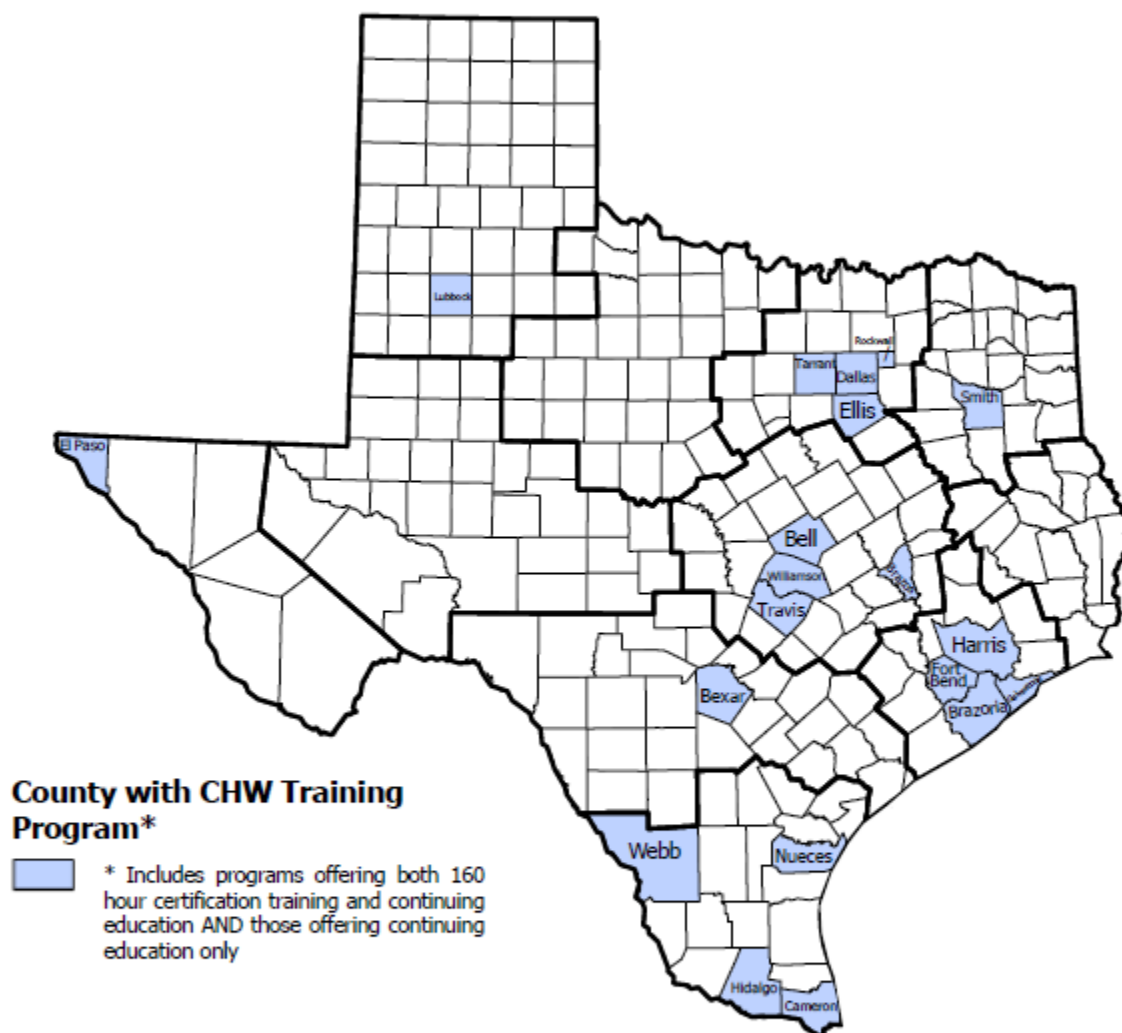
ⁱ Source: DSHS Share Point Site, CHW Training Site

Certified CHWs by County of Residence



Appendix E. Map of Counties with CHW Training Programsⁱ

Location of CHW Certification and Continuing Education Training Programs



Data as of January, 2022.

Data Source: Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program, Community Health and Wellness Branch, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, Texas Department of State Health Services.



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Map Created 02/22/2022 by the Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, Texas Department of State Health Services.