

# Community Health Worker Certification

## INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATION DESCRIPTION

A community health worker assists people to gain access to needed services and builds individual, community, and system capacity. They help increase 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.

The Community Health Worker certification develops the following eight core competencies: communication, interpersonal, service coordination, capacity-building, advocacy, teaching, organizational skills, knowledge based on specific health issues.

A student who completes the Community Health Worker certification could work in a variety of occupations. Work activities could include: providing cultural mediation between communities and health and human service systems; providing informal counseling and social support; providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health education; advocating for individual and community needs; assuring people get the services they need; building individual and community capacity; or providing referral and follow-up services.

For additional information, please visit the following link:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/library/chw.shtm>



## CERTIFYING ENTITY

Texas Department of State Health Services



512-776-2570 or 512-776-2624



<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mch/chw.aspx>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Candidate requirements:**  
 Texas resident 18 years of age, but pending changes expected in August 2019 (16 years of age)

To meet requirements for state certification, course curriculum must focus on a minimum of 160 hours of instruction and training with at least 20 clock hours in each of the following eight core competencies:

- communication skills
- service Coordination skills
- advocacy skills
- organizational skills
- interpersonal skills
- capacity-building skills
- teaching skills
- knowledge base on specific health issues

**Instructor Requirements:** To become an instructor for the Community Health Worker certification, a teacher must be trained and certified by an approved program.

A list of instructor training programs can be found at the following website:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chw/CHW-InstructorTraining.aspx>

**Cost of Instructor Certification:**  
 \$1200-\$1500 depending upon program selected