



# Community Health Worker Program

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act of 2020 allocated funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to states, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes. CDC announces the availability of funds to achieve the goal of the CARES Act in preventing COVID-19 and protecting the American people from related public health impacts.

## Our Program

In 2021, we were awarded funds that created the KDHE Community Health Worker Program. Our program consists of several staff members that works collaboratively across communities to ***decrease the challenges that keep Kansans from living a healthy life and to give each individual access to make the healthiest choice the easiest choice for everyone.***

## Community Health Workers (CHWs)

CHWs are a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has a close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a link between health and social services in the community and to facilitate access to services that improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

## Our Work

In the coming years, we will be working on goals to:

- ***Train*** CHWs with the knowledge, roles and skills they need.
- ***Deploy*** CHWs to support the COVID-19 public health response.
- ***Engage*** CHWs to help build and strengthen community resilience.

A more detailed explanation of these goals is on the other side of this document.

For more information, visit [www.kdheks.gov/chw](http://www.kdheks.gov/chw).

## Program Goals

### **TRAIN**

CHWs with knowledge, roles, and skills

- Increased, skills/capacity/roles to support COVID-19 public health response and chronic disease prevention.
- Increase reach of Community Health Workers influenced qualification efforts among populations of focus.
- Decrease impact of COVID-19 and chronic disease in high risk populations. Increase community flexibility to respond to COVID-19 and future public health emergencies.

### **DEPLOY**

CHWs to support the COVID-19 public health response

- Increase workforce of Community Health Workers delivering services to manage spread of COVID-19 and chronic disease prevention.
- Promote and integrate Community Health Workers into existing workforce in focused populations.
- Decrease impact of COVID-19 and chronic disease in high risk populations. Increase community resilience to respond to COVID-19 and future public health emergencies.

### **ENGAGE**

CHWs to help build and strengthen community resilience

- Increase use of community resources and clinical services for those at high-risk for poor health outcomes among populations of focus.
- Increase delivery of community resources and clinical services to those at highest risk for poor health outcomes in populations of focus.
- Decrease impact of COVID-19 and chronic disease in high risk populations. Increase community flexibility to respond to COVID-19 and future public health emergencies.