



Community Health Workers in Rural Settings

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What is a Community Health Worker?

A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/ intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

APHA Community Health Worker Section



Community Health Worker Approach

Defining our Terms

A role is a part played by someone in a particular situation, whereas....

a function is the duty of someone or the natural purpose of something.



What can a CHW do?

- Community Health workers can play a lot of **roles**
 - Health Educator
 - Enrollment specialist
 - Advocate
 - Patient Navigator
 - Care Coordinator



Foundation of the CHW model

- The power of the model lies in **function** and in the competencies and of the CHW
 - Trusted advisor
 - Natural leader
 - Liasion/Bridge
 - Of the community that they serve
 - Empowerment of individuals and communities



Sustaining CHW efforts

- Building the value proposition
- Strengthening the profession
- Exploring sustainable financing