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.

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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
  • Liaison/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