

Benefits of integrating community health workers

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Community health worker means an individual who:

- a. Has expertise or experience in public health;
- b. Works in an urban or rural community, either for pay or as a volunteer in association with a local health care system;
- c. To the extent practicable, shares ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status and life experiences with the residents of the community where the worker serves;
- d. Assists members of the community to improve their health and increases the capacity of the community to meet the health care needs of its residents and achieve wellness;
- e. Provides health education and information that is culturally appropriate to the individuals being served;
- f. Assists community residents in receiving the care they need;
- g. May give peer counseling and guidance on health behaviors;and
- h. May provide direct services such as first aid or blood pressure screening.

Community health workers are trusted community members who promote health through a variety of strategies, from connecting people to existing services, to sharing culturally appropriate education and information, to organizing communities to identify health issues and address the social determinants of health.

TRIPLE AIM:

Care – quality, availability, reliability

- A diverse workforce able to provide culturally responsive education and solutions
- Link medical and social services
- Reduce or eliminate barriers to access and treatment

Cost – lower, contain, affordability

- Reduce no show rates
- Reduce emergency room visits
- Improve patient engagement and chronic disease management

Health – improve lifelong health

- Promote and engage consumers in self-management
- Support preventative care and early treatment
- Support treatment follow-up
- Address social determinants of health