

Traditional Health Worker Certification **FAQ**: Frequently asked Questions & Answers.

1. How can someone become certified as Traditional Health worker Program?

- a. Complete an Oregon Health Authority (OHA) - Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) approved training for Peer Wellness Specialist (PWS), Peer Support Specialist (PSS), Community Health Worker (CHW), Patient Health Navigators (PHN), and Doulas. Look for your specific Specialty training. the list of approved trainings programs can be found at this link
<http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/OEI/Pages/THW-Approved.aspx> .

Please Note: There is more than one page so click to the next page

2. Who is Eligible to become Traditional health worker?

- a. Traditional Health Workers (THWs) help individuals in their communities, providing physical and behavioral health services. There are five (5) Traditional health worker types.
 - i. **Community health workers (CHW)**: 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. (APHA CHW Section).
 - ii. **Peer support specialists (PSS)**: A Peer Support Specialist is any [range of] individuals who provide supportive services to a current or former consumer of mental health or addiction treatment. (From ORS 414.025).
 - iii. **Peer wellness specialists (PWS)**: A Peer Wellness Specialist is an individual who has lived experience with a psychiatric condition(s) plus intensive training, who works as part of a person-driven, health home team, integrating behavioral health and primary care to assist and advocate for individuals in achieving well-being.
 - iv. **Personal health navigators (PHN)**: A Personal Health Navigator is an individual who provides information, assistance, tools and support to enable a patient to make the best health care decisions.
 - v. **Birth doulas**: A (Birth) Doula is a birth companion who provides personal, nonmedical support to women and families throughout a woman's pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum experience. (From original version of the THW rules, 410-180-0300)

3. After I finish my training hour's requirements, what's next for certification process?

- a. Complete the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) certification application an individual can finish application online as well as do hard copy applications. Hard Copy applications can be return to OEI.



Traditional Health Worker Program
OHA Office of Equity and Inclusion
421 S.W. Oak St., Suite 750
Portland OR 97204
Email thw.program@state.or.us or fax: 971-673-1128

- b. For more information, Here is the link of to how to become certified including the application <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/thw-certification.aspx>
- c. Completed applications can also be emailed to THW.program@state.or.us

4. What are the documents required for Certification?

- a. Traditional Health program Application, fully completed, signed and dated
- b. Copy of a completion certificate from an OHA Approved training Program
- c. Clear copy of a government-issued identification (state IDs, Driver License, and passport)

5. After I submit my application to OHA (OEI) what happens to my application?

- a. OHA/OEI staff will start application process. First, they will internally build profile for the applicants, put them in quae. Secondly, OHA-OEI staff will send the applicant's information to the state background check unit. Third, Background check Unit will send an email to the applicants.
- b. The applicant has 21 days to respond or their background check application will close. It's important the applicants responds t the email from BCU, otherwise, their application will be in pending status, and in some cases may need to start over.

6. Is the background check free?

- a. Yes, the cost of background check is totally free for individuals and is 100% paid by the state.

7. What happens if an individual applicants who has Criminal background?

- a. An applicant can do aweigh test. The "weigh test" allows people who have a criminal history to continue the important work they do within our health care system. They will have to provide and share their recovery story including a letter of recommendations for reference.

Please Note: See the OEI Website resource list for more information

8. What happens next after someone gets approved OR Denied by background check Unit?

- a. If someone is approved, The OEI staff will send a letter notifying you of the approval
- b. If someone is denied, The background check unit will mail them a letter explaining of the decisions for denial



9. How long is traditional health worker certification good for?

- a. Traditional health worker certification is good for three years (**36 months**)

10. When and how does someone needs renew their certification?

- a. Individuals will need to submit renewal application 60 days before their current certification expires.
- b. They will be required earn and document 20 continuing education hours during their renewal process. All that information can be found on our OHA/OEI Website at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/thw-certification.aspx>
- c. They will also do another background check again which takes the same process.

11. Is any other avenues for individuals with addictions recovery and with criminal records to get certified?

- a. Yes, Individuals have a choice to be certified through the Addiction Counseling Board of Oregon (ACCBO) which will send the information to OEI.
<http://www.accbo.com/>