



Chicago Community Health Worker Local Network

Chicago is home to a large diverse Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce that provides needed services in many communities. Community health workers are vital links between communities and the health care system. Supporting CHWs and strengthening and expanding CHW programs will help improve community health and reduce the gap in health services for racial and ethnic minorities to promote health equity.

While CHWs are connected to their organization and their community, they often do not know other CHWs in Chicago. Networking among CHWs can facilitate resource sharing and help strengthen the profession. To respond to this need, CHW leaders formed the Chicago CHW Local Network in 2003. HealthConnect One has incubated the Network since April 2007, acting as fiscal agent and staff advisor as it is a vital part of HealthConnect One's mission to improve the welfare of underserved communities.

The CHW Network is continuously looked at as resource both locally and nationally. Community Health Worker Local Network Members participate in:

- ✓ Monthly trainings (attendance at trainings averages 15-25 members)
- ✓ Monthly Steering Committee meetings (90% attendance)
- ✓ Monthly Certification Meetings (90% attendance)
- ✓ Bi-monthly newsletter (sent to 472 members including individuals and organizations)
- ✓ Weekly emails regarding meetings, job opportunities, events and notifications (sent to 472 members)
- ✓ Collaboratively work with over 30 local community-based organizations.

CHW Local Network Facts *(as of 7.1.2010)*

472 members

12 trainings offered annually

8 Steering committee Members

12 Certification Committee Members

Average of **20** CHW referrals each week

Average of **10** CHW Network monthly emails