

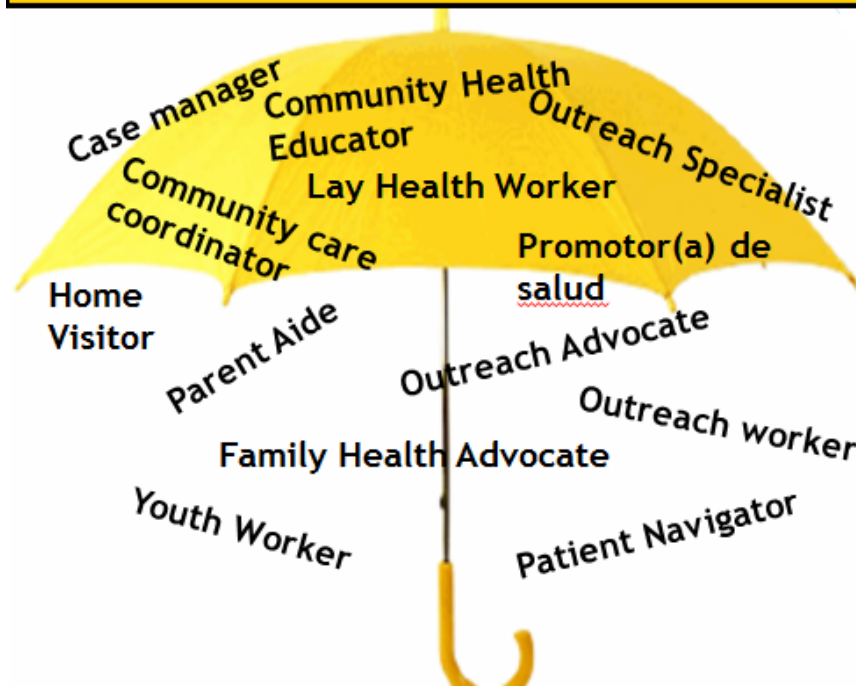


# CT AHEC FYI

Connecticut Area Health Education Center Network

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.

## Community Health Worker (CHW) Umbrella



CHWs are known by many different titles

### Supporting Primary Care Workforce Development in Connecticut By:

- ▶ Promoting Strong Community/Academic Partnerships
- ▶ Creating Pipeline Programs for Pre-Health Professions Students
- ▶ Supporting Health Careers Awareness Programming
- ▶ Providing Community-Based

## The Promise of Community Health Workers in Connecticut

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has generated health-system changes that increase the role of community health workers (CHWs) in the delivery of preventive and clinical health care. CHWs can improve access to and quality of health care, increase health-care affordability, and

Training for Health Professions Students

► Supporting Community-Based Health Education and Screenings

► Promoting Strategies to Address Health Disparities

### **CT AHEC Network Regional Centers:**

Central AHEC, Inc.  
(Hartford area)

[www.centralctahec.org](http://www.centralctahec.org)

Eastern AHEC, Inc. (Willimantic-New London area)

[www.easternctahec.org](http://www.easternctahec.org)

Northwestern AHEC, Inc.  
(Waterbury area)

[www.nwctahec.org](http://www.nwctahec.org)

Southwestern AHEC, Inc.  
(Stamford-Bridgeport-New Haven area)

[www.swctahec.org](http://www.swctahec.org)

ultimately facilitate better health outcomes in Connecticut's most at-risk populations.<sup>1</sup>

CHWs are front-line public health workers who are trusted members of or have an unusually close understanding of the community served.

CHWs work to improve population health by incorporating prevention services and social determinants of health into health care, and are recognized by national and local health leaders as integral members of health-care teams.

Connecticut's \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) 4-year test grant, awarded in 2014 by the U.S. Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), aims to establish a health-care system that improves health and eliminates health inequities; ensures superior access, quality, and care experience; and reduces health-care costs. The SIM provides funding to promote the use of CHWs along the health-care continuum and to prepare them to become members of interprofessional primary care teams.

The CT AHEC Network is providing leadership for the SIM CHW Initiative. Led by Dr. Bruce Gould and Meredith Ferraro, the CHW Initiative is working with stakeholders to develop a CHW policy framework that encompasses certification, training, scope of practice, and sustainable payment mechanisms for CHW services.

[\[1\] "The Business Case for Community Health Workers in Connecticut," Connecticut Department of Public Health, Connecticut AHEC Network, CT Health Foundation and Connecticut Association of Community Health Workers, Fall 2014.](#)

The statewide Connecticut Area Health Education Center (CT AHEC) Network, based at UConn Health, is implemented through four regional centers which enable the CT AHEC Network to provide high-quality, efficient, effective and flexible services that meet local needs. Thank you for your continued support of the CT AHEC Network.

**Call us at 860-679-7969 or visit:**

