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

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 Training for Health Professions

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

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.
