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*Supporting the workforce of Indiana's CHWs as part of the health care delivery system.*

## Definition of the CHW Profession

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline public health professionals who serve as a bridge between communities and healthcare systems. They work to improve access to healthcare, promote health education, and advocate for community needs, particularly among underserved populations.

An authentic CHW has lived experience and a deep personal connection to the community they serve. They understand their clients' struggles, barriers, and needs because they have either faced similar challenges themselves or have been closely involved in addressing them within their community. An authentic CHW is not just a service provider—they are a peer, a mentor, and a voice for their community. Their connection to the work makes them invaluable in addressing health disparities and creating lasting, positive change. This CHW produces impressive outcomes.