**What Community Health Workers Do**

A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has a close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community.

- Work in health departments, medical clinics, and social service agencies
- Home visits
- Patient education
- Community Advocacy
- Case Management - assist patients with accessing community resources

After successful completion of this 120-hour training, approved by the Oregon Health Authority, students may become **certified by the state of Oregon as a Community Health Worker**. In Oregon, CHWs are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

**What you will learn**

- Navigating the health care system
- Ethics and documentation
- Social determinants of health
- Disease prevention
- Health across the lifespan
- Cultural competency
- Relationship building
- Behavior change
- Trauma informed care
- Self-care
- Health education principles and health literacy
- Community organizing, engagement and advocacy
- Community needs assessment
- Case management and working with agencies
- Group facilitation skills
- Recovery, resilience and wellness models

**Career Advancement**

Working as a Community Health Worker is an excellent way to enter into the field of health care and social services. With additional education, you may advance your career:

- Public health
- Medical practitioner (nurse, doctor, and more)
- Social work
- Counseling
- Clinic manager

**Wages**

Average wages in Central Oregon

- Hourly: $18.26

*Oregon Employment Department, Central Oregon Wages, 2020*
**Community Health Worker**

**HHP 299 Community Health Worker**  
6 CREDITS

**Class Schedule:**
- Course offered fall term 2021  
- Course length: 11 weeks  
- Hybrid class:
  - Students will meet on the Redmond campus for in-person classes for 6 Fridays during the term (12pm to 5pm): 9/24; 10/8; 10/29; 11/5; 11/19; 12/3  
  - Students will engage in weekly online learning modules

**To register for the course:**
- Must complete COCC admissions process before registration: Priority registration for class (first come, first-served).  
- There are no academic pre-requisites for the course.  
- Students need to have reliable access to the internet and a computer (computer labs are available for student use on all COCC campuses)  
- A high school diploma or GED are not required to receive the training. They may be a requirement from the potential employer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
Sarah Baron, Public Health Faculty  
Email: sbaron@cocc.edu  
Phone: 541-383-7764

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**Community Health Worker Certification**

Oregon Health Authority Certification Requirements:
- Completion of the *OHA-approved* COCC CHW training course  
- Must be 18 years old  
- Criminal background check required  
- Government issued identification required (state IDs, Driver License, or passport)  
- Certification is valid for 3 years. To renew certification, 20 hours of continuing education is required.

**TUITION**

- **HHP 299 Community Health Worker class:** approximately $755 (scholarships available)  
- **Textbook:** no textbook costs  
- **Certification:** no cost  
  *Assumes in-district tuition. Tuition is an estimate and subject to change.*

**COURSE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students may apply for a scholarship sponsored by the Central Oregon Health Council and PacificSource Community Solutions to cover course tuition. Scholarship application deadline: July 1st, 2021.  
[CLICK HERE for link to scholarship application]

**FINANCIAL AID**

COC Financial Aid Office provides assistance for students to access financial aid to reach their educational goals: FAFSA/ORSAA, grants, scholarships, Oregon Promise, work study, loans, etc.