



Colorado Public Health Works AmeriCorps and Apprenticeship Program – Community Health Worker Service Position

Program Information

Colorado Public Health Works provides a year of professional experience in the field of public health for young people (ages 17-25) in Colorado to increase the capacity of Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA).

Local Public Health Agencies work to improve community well-being by providing services that help prevent disease, illness, and injury, particularly in communities (populations) most adversely impacted by social, economic and environmental disparities.

In 2021 a partnership with the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, the Patient Navigator Training Collaborative, Arapahoe Community College, the Office of the Future of Work at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, and Trailhead Institute began the Community Health Worker (CHW) USDOL registered apprenticeship program in Colorado. Through funding with AmeriCorps State and National and the Schultz Family Foundation, the Community Health Workers are frontline public health connectors that have a close understanding of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables them to serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. Community Health Workers build individual and community capacity through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

This Program leverages support from AmeriCorps through Serve Colorado – the Governor’s Commission for Community Service to empower community-based organizations to meet locally identified needs and statewide challenges through service.

Position Title

Colorado Public Health Works – Community Health Worker (CHW)

Service Location Site Information

Local Public Health Agencies are ready and willing to increase their capacity after the recent pandemic has caused many leaders to leave their positions and left critical shortages to implement the many lessons learned in public health and safety. “Host Sites” are locations in rural and urban communities across Colorado. These organizations are adaptive and responsive to address the public health needs in their communities. Sites are chosen based on the ability to provide benefits for a full-time CHW, and to create a meaningful impact. Projects vary by site, based on the organizations’ CHW initiatives. For



example, COVID-19 vaccine uptake might be a focus in one area whereas increasing health education and access for LGBT+ youth might be the focus in another community. Regardless of the specific projects, all program sites will be working to build their capacity to address regional and local public health needs.

Goals for Colorado Public Health Works include technical assistance and capacity building support in local and state public health agencies and public health agency-serving organizations across Colorado to:

- schedule, organize, and support facilitation of regional meetings with LPHA directors and/or staff work groups in order to collaborate on common goals and better understand regional issues and needs
- gather and analyze data and information from local public health agencies on the key components needed to build a roadmap to modernize the public health system
- fulfill the training and competencies, including related instruction and on-the-job learning, for a CHW apprentice.

Community Health Worker Activity

An average of three hours of training each week is required, provided primarily in a virtual environment, with some limited in-person trainings. Each host site will provide on the job training with appropriate mentoring and supervision for the CHW. The CHW will work towards achieving competency in the following areas:

- Coordinating care, providing case management support, and assisting individuals and communities in navigating health and social service systems
- cultural mediation among individuals, communities, and health and social service systems
- culturally appropriate health education and information
- coaching and social support
- Promotion for individuals and communities
- Building individual and community capacity
- Implementing individual and community assessments

Once the trainings have been completed and participants have met the required competencies in each of these areas, they will receive their apprenticeship certification as a Community Health Worker.

Supervisor Information and Service Hours

Supervisors serve as a direct mentor and advisor during the position term. They are designing and implementing public health support activities with intention and objectives outlined in the host organizations' strategic plans.

Member Terms: starting September 2022 to September 2023. Members serve for 1 full year/12 months 40 hours per week with 40 hours vacation/time off permitted.



2000 Hours are completed to meet the requirement for the AmeriCorps and Apprenticeship model and includes comprehensive training and direct service-learning activities. **Participants may be eligible to apply previous hours for experience and education to the term.**

Benefits

Benefits from the Colorado Public Health Works

- Provide collaborative training regularly with the host sites.
- Build cohesion and shared network for CHW to learn and connect from peer groups.
- Support with job placement and/or education counseling after certification, and completion of AmeriCorps

Benefits from Program Site/ Employer

- Living Allowance payment equivalent to minimum wage requirements are paid by the host organization and the partially reimbursed by the program.
- Health and other employment benefits, equal to benefits provided to other employees in the organization.
- Post service Education Award, for successful completion of term up to \$6,483 to apply towards tuition at eligible institutions.
- Scholarships may also be available at some locations for books, transportation, and other costs to participate in trainings

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for AmeriCorps National Service:

- US Citizen, US National, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States.
- At least 17 years of age at the commencement of service.
- Received a high school diploma or equivalent or agrees to obtain a high school diploma or equivalent.
- The Colorado Public Health Works program will conduct a National Service Criminal History Check and will uphold confidentiality of the applicant on any findings. Participation is contingent upon criminal history review and all applicants have the right to challenge the results two weeks from the notification, however this may not alter the program decision to disqualify an individual from participation of the program.

Position Inquiries

Interested persons can inquire with questions directly to lkenlon@trailhead.institute call or text 303-407-4346 and schedule a time to discuss the AmeriCorps Apprenticeship opportunity. All candidates will be screened by the program followed by a formal interview with a host site supervisor.



Please Note:

Trailhead Institute is supporting the Colorado Public Health Works Program through a number of capacities, including recruiting. Colorado Public Health Works – Community Health Workers are employed by local host organizations who serve as the program site/employer. Community Health Workers are not employees of Trailhead Institute.