

Community Health Worker

Help people in your own neighborhood get the care and support they are entitled to.

TYPICAL PAY

\$51,850

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$39k to \$77k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Clinics, health departments,
nonprofits, people's homes**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma or the GED (General Educational Development) test** Grade 12
That is the floor for most postings. Some ask for an associate degree, many do not.
- 2 Get certified, if your state has certification** A few months, often part time
Where it exists it is usually a course of roughly 80 to 160 hours plus supervised field work. Employers frequently pay for it.
- 3 Get hired** Right away
Clinics, county health departments, hospitals, food banks, housing programs and disease specific nonprofits all hire outreach staff.
- 4 Build a specialty** 1 to 3 years in
Diabetes, maternal health, behavioral health, immigrant and refugee support, housing. Specialists get the better funded roles.
- 5 Lead a program** 3 to 6 years in
Supervising other outreach workers, managing the grant and reporting the numbers that keep it funded.

Pros and cons

- + You can start with a high school diploma and no debt
- + Demand is growing fast as health systems pay for prevention
- + You see the result of your work in actual people
- Pay is modest for how hard the work is
- Many jobs are grant funded, so the position can disappear when the grant does
- You carry other people's crises home with you

Optional boosts

State certification. Certified peer support specialist. Medical interpreter certification. Community health worker instructor.

Good to know

The job has a dozen different names

Promotora, patient navigator, outreach worker, peer educator, community health representative, health coach. The federal career database files them all under one heading, which is why job hunting f...

It is one of the fastest growing jobs in health care

The federal career profile flags this occupation as a bright outlook with rapid growth ahead. The reason is money: it is far cheaper to send someone to a person's kitchen than to readmit them to the hos...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Community Health Workers (21-1094.00)
National Association of Community Health Workers
Oregon Health Authority: Traditional Health Worker Program
Texas Department of State Health Services

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/community-health-worker>



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