

Community Health Worker Class FAQ

What is a Community Health Worker (CHW)?

Community Health Workers help connect people with health care, social services, education, and community resources. CHWs often serve as trusted guides, advocates, educators, and support people within their communities.

To learn more about the CHW profession, visit:

[The Caring Gene – Community Health Worker Information](#)

Who is this program for?

This program is designed for people from all backgrounds and levels of experience.

You do **not** need a health care background to participate.

The CHW role may be a good fit for:

- people interested in helping others
- individuals already working in human services or community organizations
- people interested in public health or health care careers
- peer advocates and caregivers
- those looking for a meaningful career change

The CHW role can be:

- a career on its own
 - a stepping stone into other fields such as nursing, public health, social work, counseling, EMS, or health education
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Are there prerequisites?

No. There are currently no prerequisites for the course.

How long is the program?

The program runs for **10 weeks**.

What does the course look like?

The course includes both asynchronous and live instruction.

Asynchronous Coursework

Students will complete:

- readings
- recorded lectures
- videos
- reflections
- online activities

Students complete this work on their own schedule each week.

Live Weekly Lab

Students will also attend a live online skill-building lab each week focused on:

- discussion
- communication skills
- interviewing and listening skills
- problem-solving
- community resource navigation
- applied CHW scenarios

Live Lab Schedule:

Mondays, 6:00 PM – 8:40 PM

Because the live labs are highly interactive, students are strongly encouraged to attend all sessions. Missing more than one live lab may put your eligibility for the Caring Gene scholarship at risk.

Is there a field project?

Yes. Students will complete a field project as part of the course.

Field project details will be developed in discussion with the instructor based on student interests and local opportunities.

Students are strongly encouraged to partner with a local **1115 Waiver Program** or community organization when possible. These organizations receive funding to serve populations with significant health and social needs, and scholarship recipients may be eligible to complete their required service work at approved sites.

A list of eligible organizations and sites is available here:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/1115_waiver/app_svs_commit_site_dir.htm

Are you interested in working at a site not on this list? They may be eligible to be part of the program. To initiate the process, they must fill out the form below:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/1115_waiver/docs/provider_attestation.pdf

Is the program online?

Yes. The program includes:

- online asynchronous coursework
- live online weekly labs

Students should have reliable internet access and a device capable of participating in live online sessions.

What textbook is used for the course?

The course uses:

Foundations for Community Health Workers

More information is available here:

[Wiley Textbook Information](#)

The textbook is available through the NCCC Bookstore.

How do I register?

Go to the link below, and select “Community Health Worker” from the drop-down menu.

<https://www.nccc.edu/community-health-worker/>

Is financial support available?

Yes. Eligible students may qualify for support through [The Caring Gene Career Pathways Training Program](#).

Support may include:

- tuition assistance
- coverage of books and fees
- academic support during training
- career and job placement assistance after completion

Students are encouraged to apply early.

I registered — how do I get started?

Once you are registered, log into Brightspace and begin working through the course orientation materials.

Students should begin by:

1. Purchasing the textbook through the NCCC Bookstore:
 - *Foundations for Community Health Workers, Third Edition*
2. Reading:
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
3. Choosing a county to focus on during the course
 - Students will use this county as the basis for many course activities and discussions
4. Developing a “persona”
 - This will be a fictional or composite client story that you will continue working with throughout the 10-week course

- Your persona will help you apply CHW skills in realistic scenarios
 - 5. Beginning to identify a community partner site for your final project
 - The site should ideally be located within the county you selected
 - Students are strongly encouraged to explore partnerships with local 1115 Waiver Program recipients or related organizations
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What support is available after the course ends?

Students who complete the program will receive access to a CHW community listserv that will be maintained for at least two years.

The listserv will provide:

- job postings
 - professional development opportunities
 - community resources
 - tools and templates
 - networking opportunities
 - continuing education information
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What kinds of jobs can CHWs do?

CHWs work in many settings, including:

- hospitals
- clinics
- public health organizations
- schools
- nonprofits
- behavioral health programs
- substance use recovery programs
- aging services
- community organizations

CHWs may help with:

- care navigation
- outreach
- health education
- advocacy

- resource coordination
 - peer support
 - case management support
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Who should I contact with questions?

Please contact the registrar's office for registration questions. For questions specific to the class, please email elena.lumby@nccc.edu. For questions regarding the Caring Gene program, reach out to them via their website, or your point of contact: <https://caringgene.org/>