



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Maine, U.S. — February 24, 2026 — The Maine Community Health Worker Initiative (MECHWI) is proud to announce the official launch of its **Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program**, set to begin on **February 24, 2026**.

This milestone marks a significant step in professionalizing the CHW workforce and ensuring consistent, high-quality support for communities across the state.

The certification program, developed with health leaders and stakeholders, establishes clear standards for CHW practice, training, and competency. By recognizing CHWs as essential members of the health care industry, Maine aims to improve access to care, reduce health disparities, and promote community well-being.

“CHWs are the bridge between health care systems and the communities they serve,” said Bridgette Dairyko, Associate Manager for the MECHWI. “This certification program validates their critical role and provides a pathway for career growth and sustainability.”

The program includes:

- Required training and competency requirements.
- Required continuing education and professional development.
- State-supported certification process.

Organizations and individuals interested in certification can learn more at www.mechw.org
About the Maine Community Health Worker Initiative (MECHWI)

The Maine Community Health Worker Initiative (MECHWI) envisions a health care and public health system that works for everyone, where disparities in access and outcomes have been eliminated; where essential services are available when, where, and how they're needed; where community input drives design and decision-making; where a highly trained workforce has the skills and experience to meet community needs; and where community conditions support the health, hope, and productivity of every child and adult in Maine. MECHWI works to eliminate disparities in Maine communities and systems of care by cultivating a network of well-trained, peer-supported Community Health Workers who are highly valued and fully integrated across diverse sectors and settings.

Thank you to MCD Global Health (our administrative home) and IC & RC (our vendor) for their support.

Learn more about MECHWI at <https://www.mechw.org/>.