Community Health Worker Certification in Ohio
Key Facts from the 2018 Ohio Community Health Worker (CHW) Statewide Assessment

601 Certified CHWs in Ohio

Certification Requires:
- 100 classroom hours
- 130 clinical experience hours
- 15 contact hours of continuing education
- Renewal of certification every other year
- Ohio laws for CHW certification are outlined in the Ohio Revised Code and regulated by the Ohio Board of Nursing
- Certification in Ohio has existed since 2005*

* It is not mandatory to hold a CHW certification in Ohio

More than 249 known Non-Certified CHWs in Ohio

84% of Certified CHWs were certified in the past three years

Of the 252 CHWs whose certifications have lapsed since the first renewal, more than half had their certification lapse in 2017 alone

Reasons cited for lapsed certifications include:
- Did not know how to renew
- Did not know that they needed to renew
- Did not have enough continuing education credits
- Did not plan on being a CHW long-term

8% of certified CHWs are uncertain if they will renew or do not plan to renew their certifications in 2019

TOP 3 ATTITUDES OF CERTIFIED & NON-CERTIFIED CHWs TOWARDS CERTIFICATION

76.5% Certification better equips them to SERVE the community

63.4% Certification gives VALUE to the profession

52.1% Certification increases RESPECT from the community
BARRIERS TO CERTIFICATION

Examples of barriers to obtain CHW certification reported from key informant interviews, focus groups, and surveys include:

- Training programs are too long
- Training programs are too costly
- Not enough affordable continuing education opportunities
- Certification does not make a difference in terms of pay
- Location of training programs are not accessible for all CHWs
- Not enough accessible continuing education opportunities
- The process of certification renewal is not clear enough
- Some CHWs in Ohio are not even aware that certification exists
- Background checks prohibit some CHWs from ever getting certified

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