

Minnesota CHW Competency-Based Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

Minnesota is the only state in the US with a statewide standardized, competency-based CHW curriculum based in higher education, leading to a certificate. The curriculum was developed by the Healthcare Education Industry Partnership at Minnesota State University, Mankato in partnership with CHWs and many stakeholder organizations including state and local public health, health providers, health plans, human services organizations, mutual assistance associations, affinity/professional groups, schools, and funders among others. Major support was provided by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation along with contributions by many other agencies.

What are the courses in the curriculum?

Core Competencies: 9 credit hours

Role, Advocacy and Outreach

Organization and Resources: Community and Personal Strategies

CHW Role in Teaching and Capacity-Building

CHW Legal and Ethical Responsibilities

Coordination, Documentation and Reporting

Communication Skills and Cultural Competence

Health Promotion Competencies: 3 credit hours

Healthy Lifestyles, Heart Diseases and Stroke, Maternal/Child/Teen Health, Diabetes, Cancer, Oral Health, Mental Health

Practice Competencies: 2 credit hours

Student Field Internship

What is the educational approach?

The 14 credit program is a blend of classroom and field-based learning for those who have a high school diploma or GED, at a minimum. The curriculum is designed to articulate with other health professions preparation programs in nursing and allied health so that it is an educational pathway—not a dead-end. Introduced in 2005, the program content has already been revised once in 2010.

Where is the program currently offered in Minnesota?

Minneapolis Community and Technical College – Summer/Fall semester evening program

Rochester Community and Technical College- completed spring/summer evening program

St. Catherine University – Both as stand-alone program and part of baccalaureate degree across a full academic year on Monday and Tuesday afternoons

South Central College, Mankato – Online version available to extend access to rural Minnesota and beyond

Summit Academy OIC – offered fairly continuously throughout the years as a day program

What does it cost to take the program?

Costs vary by school as do financial aid policies.

Who teaches the program?

Faculty members have master's degrees in public health, nursing and/or allied health and work experience in public health, health care and/or community services.

How many students have completed the certificate program?

Over 500 since 2005 representing Minnesota's African-American, American Indian, Caucasian, deaf, immigrant and refugee communities from around the world.

How much does the curriculum cost?

It is available at no charge to Minnesota-based accredited schools of higher education that are committed to CHW training. The curriculum is owned and managed by the Minnesota State College and University System which holds the copyright. Contact Anne Willaert for more info: anne.willaert@southcentral.edu