

# COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS STRENGTHEN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Communities of color experience [racism, health and social inequities](#) that exacerbate the impacts of COVID-19. Systemic health and social inequities experienced by communities of color are exacerbating COVID-19 economic and [health disparities](#). [Experts](#) have called for a [community-based workforce](#), led by Community Health Workers (CHWs) to effectively scale [contact tracing and strengthen public health response](#). Decades of [research](#) confirm the [effectiveness](#) of CHWs in addressing health disparities, yet few contact tracing initiatives hire CHWs or partner with state CHW Networks or Associations.

CHWs (including community health representatives and promotores de salud) are [frontline public health professionals](#) with unique [competencies](#), training, and [shared life experience](#) that facilitate trusting relationships. To address the [increased impact of COVID-19 on diverse communities](#) who are more likely to lack health care coverage, have a chronic disease, live in poverty, are an essential worker and experience racism and prejudice, [we need more CHWs](#).

The National Association of Community Health Workers helps public and private institutions develop authentic [partnerships](#) with CHWs and state CHW Networks [to strengthen public health](#), meet social needs, and build community capacity.

## FOUR WAYS THAT CHWs STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY



The mission of the National Association of Community Health Workers is to unify the workforce to support communities in achieving health equity and social justice.

To learn more about Community Health Workers, visit [www.nachw.org](http://www.nachw.org) or email us at [info@nachw.org](mailto:info@nachw.org).

- 01 Develop and provide compassionate community engagement.
- 02 Screen communities for social and behavioral health needs and help them navigate services.
- 03 Lead workforce development activities for contact tracing.
- 04 Build community capacity for recovery and rebuilding.