

Call for Applications:

2025 Community Health Worker (CHW) or Medical Assistant Asthma Training Program

Introduction:

The Care Transformation Collaborative of Rhode Island (CTC-RI), in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), is excited to offer up to 15 Community Health Workers the opportunity to participate in the [Asthma Basics Training Program](#). This comprehensive program spans two days in person, totaling 9 hours with a virtual assessment via zoom (to be scheduled on the last day of class). It is designed to enhance participants' skills in asthma education, empowering them to better support patients and help reduce emergency department and hospital visits.

Please note that completion of this training is a prerequisite for the upcoming Asthma Home Visiting Training, which will be available in Spring 2025.

Goal:

The goal of the Asthma Basics Training Program is to prepare entry-level community health workers (CHW) or Medical Assistants to effectively provide basic asthma management education.

Who can apply:

- Community health workers
- Patient care navigators
- Family specialists
- Medical assistants

Applicants can be working within primary care practices, community based organizations, managed care organizations or be working independently.

Specific Aims:

- Ensure community health workers receive a consistent high-quality curriculum by using an effective, nationally recognized asthma training program in Rhode Island (with program costs covered by the Rhode Island Department of Health)
- Facilitate community health worker's communication with clinical mentors for professional development.

Population of Focus: Children with asthma and their families

Program Design:

Asthma Training Curriculum:

The Asthma Education Program for Community Health Workers, developed by the Association of Asthma Educators (AAE), has five (5) topics/modules (see below). During each module, learners will participate in multiple active learning activities and receive a participate manual and information on RI resources that can be used when meeting with families and patients. The trainer will work with learners to assess knowledge of the content throughout the training. There will be a competency exam at the end of training to be completed virtually.

Faculty:

June Tourangeau LPN/AE-C, Certified Asthma Educator, Asthma Education Consultant, Care Transformation Collaborative-RI

Format:

Training course will take place over the course of two days in person on Feb 5, 2025 and Feb 6, 2025 with a snow date of Feb 13, 2025 at CTC-RI at 235 Promenade St Providence, RI 02908.

Curriculum Schedule Below:

Date	Module	Duration	Objectives
Feb 5, 2025 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM In Person At CTC-RI	Module One: The Scope of Asthma	120 minutes	Recognize the prevalence of asthma in the United States. Identify the financial and quality of life impact of asthma on individuals and families. State the purpose of the national asthma guidelines and its definition of asthma control. Explain the national asthma guidelines' two major goals of asthma therapy. Identify the four most common symptoms of an asthma episode. Describe normal breathing and the main causes of airway obstruction in asthma. Identify care providers on the asthma team and the integral role played by CHWs.
	Module Two: Triggers and Environmental Control	90 minutes	State the definition of an asthma trigger and explain the difference between an allergen and irritant. List the most common asthma triggers and their environmental factors found in the home and school/childcare center/workplace. Identify asthma trigger environmental control strategies for the home and school/childcare/workplace.
	½ Module Three: Medications	50 mins	Explain the role of long-term controller medications in asthma management. Explain the role of quick-reliever medications in asthma management. Describe possible negative consequences associated with having uncontrolled asthma. State how CHWs can assist in addressing possible barriers to using long-term controller medications. Recognize current asthma quick-reliever and long-term controller medications.
Feb 6, 2025 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM In Person At CTC-RI	½ Module Three: Medications	50 minutes	Explain the role of long-term controller medications in asthma management. Explain the role of quick-reliever medications in asthma management. Describe possible negative consequences associated with having uncontrolled asthma. State how CHWs can assist in addressing possible barriers to using long-term controller medications. Recognize current asthma quick-reliever and long-term controller medications.
	Module Four: Medication Delivery Devices	115 minutes	Describe and demonstrate how to use a metered dose inhaler (MDI) and metered dose inhaler plus valved holding chamber/spacer. Describe and demonstrate how to use a dry powder inhaler (DPI). Describe and demonstrate how to use a small volume nebulizer. Describe the procedures for cleaning and caring of a valved holding chamber/spacer, small volume nebulizer, MDI and DPI. State the purpose of priming an inhaler and demonstrate proper technique. Explain the benefit of using a valved holding chamber/spacer with a metered dose inhaler.
	Module Five: Assessment and Monitoring	90 minutes	State the main risk factors for asthma related deaths. Recognize the difference between asthma symptoms and asthma early warning signs. Explain the purpose of an asthma action plan and its individual components. Recommend the steps to take based upon an asthma action plan and a person's symptoms or peak flow values. Explain the purpose of a peak flow meter and demonstrate the correct technique. Explain why validated questionnaires are useful tools in assessing asthma control.
Virtual via zoom	Comprehensive Competency Evaluation & Review	60 minutes	Complete the five-part examination utilizing the case-based scenario involving a child with asthma or adult with asthma. Provide the identified key points for each module in either written or oral form. You will select your time for your 60-min virtual assesment on the last day of class.

Association of Asthma Educators (AAE) Certificate of Completion

Learners need to commit to attending /completing all 5 modules and assessment. Participants who successfully complete the program, including obtaining a satisfactory score on the exam (higher than average score), will be eligible to receive a AAE Certificate of Completion.

Benefits:

- Asthma Education for Community Health Worker Program has been carefully designed and reviewed by over 35 asthma educators from around the nation.
- The medical community holds this certificate of completion, earned by the CHW, in high esteem.
- It is an opportunity to build your confidence in supporting children, adults and families to manage their asthma and to be a valued member on the asthma care team.
- **You will be eligible to attend a Asthma Home Visiting Training program that will be offered on April 9, 2025 & April 10, 2025**
 - **Please note that this Asthma Training Program for Community Health Workers/Medical Assistants is a prerequisite to complete the Asthma Home Visiting Training.**
- You can additionally participate in quarterly on-going learning sessions where CHW are invited to come together in community. Topics will be based on feedback from CHW and include subject matter expert and a case presentation from CHW.

Learner and Leadership Responsibility:

Please carefully consider your commitment before applying for the training program.

- Employers* (practice leadership) are expected to provide Community Health Workers with support time, which includes study time for completing Comprehensive Competency Evaluation and time to attend training which may occur during working hours.
- Learners attest that there has been discussion and approval by leadership regarding time commitment and attendance expectations.*
- Both practice leadership and learner are asked to read and sign the participative agreement that will be sent to both parties post acceptance into the asthma training program indicating your commitment to complete the learning sessions.*
- Failure to attend all modules and complete evaluation will result in an incomplete in the course and participant will not be eligible for certificate. Learners will not be given an opportunity to make up missed sessions.
****Not applicable if CHW is not presently employed.***

CTC will review applications for approval, and we reserve the right to consult with applicants and practice leadership if there are concerns about the likelihood of a learner completing the training program. Priority may be given to learners in high asthma rate areas, working in pediatrics, and/or organizations who intend to participate in home visiting training.

Directions for completing the application:

- A. Both the learner and practice leadership person are responsible for reviewing this document and adhering to the agreement that outlines confidentiality and use restrictions contained within the application.
- B. **Community Health Workers or Medical Assistants** To apply for the Asthma Basics Training Program you will answer questions about your contact information, Job Function, Specialty, etc.
- C. **Applications Open: December 11, 2024** (click this link to apply for this core asthma training program).
- D. **Applications due: January 17, 2024**
- E. **Acceptances Sent: January 22, 2025**
- F. **Training: Feb 5, 2025 and Feb 6, 2025; Make up Snow Day: Feb 13, 2025**