

Our Goals

- We support Dane County community health workers so that they can do their work sustainably and effectively
- We help build capacity locally and statewide to improve community health worker access to funding, training, and partnerships

Building Connections

The Dane County CHW Collective builds partnerships by bringing together community health workers from a variety of nonprofit and government organizations in our community.

Why It's Important

Community health workers (CHWs) support communities by addressing social barriers to health, like housing, economic security, and racial justice. They are a key partner of family medicine physicians in advancing health equity. We need to support developing CHW capacity and power to sustain the CHW workforce and build trusting physician-CHW partnerships.

What We've Done

Support and bring together the Dane County CHW Collective. Since 2019, the Collective has come together to build a space for collaboration and support. It is a community where CHWs across Dane County can share skills and lessons learned. We also provide opportunities to connect with external partners, such as local health departments, local nonprofits, university researchers, or family physicians.

Partner on a statewide COVID-19 grant to build CHW capacity statewide and locally.

Through this grant, we engage Dane County CHWs in the care and support of priority populations at the highest risk for poor health outcomes related to COVID-19. Grant funding also helps us connect family medicine physicians to CHWs on shared goals and support statewide CHW technical assistance.

What's Next?

Developing stronger, grant-funded partnerships between DFMCH and Dane County CHWs.

Part of helping CHWs sustain their work is obtaining sustainable funding for partnerships and projects. We envision our department as playing a key role in partnering with CHWs when applying for grants that advance health equity.

Supporting joint funding opportunities with CHWs and other external partners.

Funding could come through health care reimbursement, grants, or philanthropy. We are collaborating with CHWs to ensure they are an active part of decision making in this work.