

“VIAS DE LA SALUD” COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHW) CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT TOPICS WILL BE COVERED?

The training is based on developing nine CHW core competencies as defined by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH):

- Advocacy and community capacity building skills
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Cultural competency
- Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues
- Knowledge of local resources and system navigation
- Care coordination support skills
- Teaching skills to promote health behavior change
- Outreach methods and strategies
- Understanding of public health concepts and health literacy

The training does not focus on specific health topics such as diabetes management, cancer screenings, HIV prevention, maternal health, etc.

2. IN WHAT LANGUAGES WILL THE TRAINING BE CONDUCTED?

The training is conducted in Spanish.

3. HOW LONG IS THE TRAINING PROGRAM?

The training consists of a 100 hours of instruction and 40 hours of practicum conducted in a period of 6 months.

- The 100 hours of instruction are divided into 12 modules.
- The 40-hour practicum initiates during module 4 and must be finalized by the end of module 10.

4. IS THE TRAINING VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON?

- Modules 1 to 11 consists of 8 hours:
 - 6.5 hours are in-person
 - 1.5 hours are virtual
- Module 12 consists of 12 in-person hours.
- The 40-hour practicum is in-person

 **5. WHERE WILL I DO MY PRACTICUM?**

Different DHHS agencies and community-based organizations/clinics will serve as practicum hosts assuring students have a place for their practice hours.

 **6. WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE?**

The program will be offering training cohorts with different schedules. The upcoming training starting August 2023 will have the following schedule:

- The in-person instruction is held bi-weekly on Saturdays, from 8am to 3:30pm.
- The virtual instruction is held bi-weekly on weeknights from 7pm to 8:30pm.

 **7. IS THE TRAINING ONLY FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS?**

No, it is open to anyone interested in obtaining a certification by the State of Maryland.

 **8. WHAT'S THE COST OF THE TRAINING?**

The training is free of cost for Montgomery County residents. Cost for Non-Montgomery County residents will be determined for each training cohort.

 **9. WHO IS THE CERTIFYING AGENT?**

The Latino Health Initiative (LHI) is accredited by the Maryland Department of Health to provide the training. Once the training is successfully completed, LHI will provide a certificate of completion. With this certificate, participants will fill out a form and submit to MDH to obtain their certification.

 **10. WILL I NEED TO TAKE AN EXAM TO OBTAIN MY CERTIFICATION?**

Students are evaluated and graded throughout the training program. These are the evaluations requirements:

- Quiz at the end of each module
- Assignment for each module
- Final exam
- Final presentation
- Practicum performance evaluation
- Attendance

 **11. DO I NEED CHW EXPERIENCE TO APPLY?**

No, you do not need previous CHW experience to apply.