

About the program

CHWs Changing Outcomes in South Carolina addresses health inequities by bridging critical gaps in care through Community Health Workers (CHWs). Implemented by the Center for Community Health Alignment (CCHA) at the University of South Carolina, with evaluation by the Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare (CRPH), the program partners with 12 organizations to serve all 46

To continue the work of our 5-year plan, we are requesting the reinstatement of the original proviso

Funding Rationale:

Your constituents are directly served by this initiative. The funding of twenty locally-based CHWs

addresses needs that are unmet by other services. Existing evidence demonstrates strong return on investment from sustainable, well-supported CHW programs. Continued legislative investment in CHWs makes South Carolina a leader in innovative, evidence-based approaches that reduce healthcare spending.

Concluding this program would result in the loss of critical resources for your constituents and higher healthcare spending.

Health inequities, particularly in rural areas, worsen without the help of local CHWs. Your constituents know their community better than anyone else, just like the CHWs funded through this program. With your support, we create opportunities for local CHW leaders to serve their neighbors.



Highlights

3,364

Number of people served in the first 2 years

Number of connections made to health services & social needs

2,366

232

Perinatal health needs addressed

Accessed affordable healthcare

225

187

Received diabetes care and education

Supported following ER visits

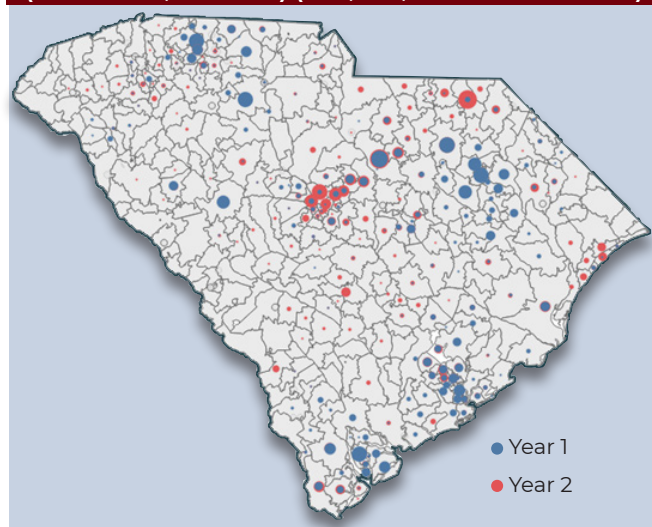
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Our plan past year five:

Beyond year five of this program, we plan to partner with SCDHHS to create lasting change for the Palmetto State. To bolster the impact of CHWs in South Carolina, we must establish sustainable funding for this workforce. Studies nationally have demonstrated that Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance reimbursement for CHW services allows the workforce to continue to address health inequities beyond the life of any funding cycle. Together we can ensure that South Carolinians access the care that they need for many years to come.



Patients Served by ZCTA
(Residence, All Time) (n=3,050, 98% of all records)



From the community; a CHW's report



"This picture is from the Bethune Community Center in Bethune, SC. Every Tuesday at this produce giveaway we will see around 50-100 people. Most of the people that come are senior citizens on fixed incomes. During these events I have been able to talk to people about help with finding a medical provider, medication programs, and where to go to get help with utility bills. It takes time to build relationships in these small communities. We all go into these events and programs planning on making big changes in the community, but first we have to build trust in order to help make change." *Jodi Rodgers, CHW*

Context: The town of Bethune has a population of around 315 and is 20 miles from the next closest town. The median household income is around \$31,000.