Community Health Workers (CHWs)

addressing health disparities

A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

"I feel like my job is to give patients hope and to help them be self-sufficient."

- Iowa CHW

Roles

- Cultural mediation
- Health education/information
- Care coordination
- Case management
- System navigation
- Coaching/social support
- Advocating
- Capacity building
- Providing direct service
- Implementing assessments
- Conducting outreach
- Evaluation and research

From the CHW Core Consensus Project

Projection

100,000 or more job openings

projected between 2020-2030

According to O*Net Online

Iowa Snapshot

Mean hourly wage: **$18.80**

Annual mean wage: **$39,100**

US Bureau of Labor Statistics
May 2020

Social Issues

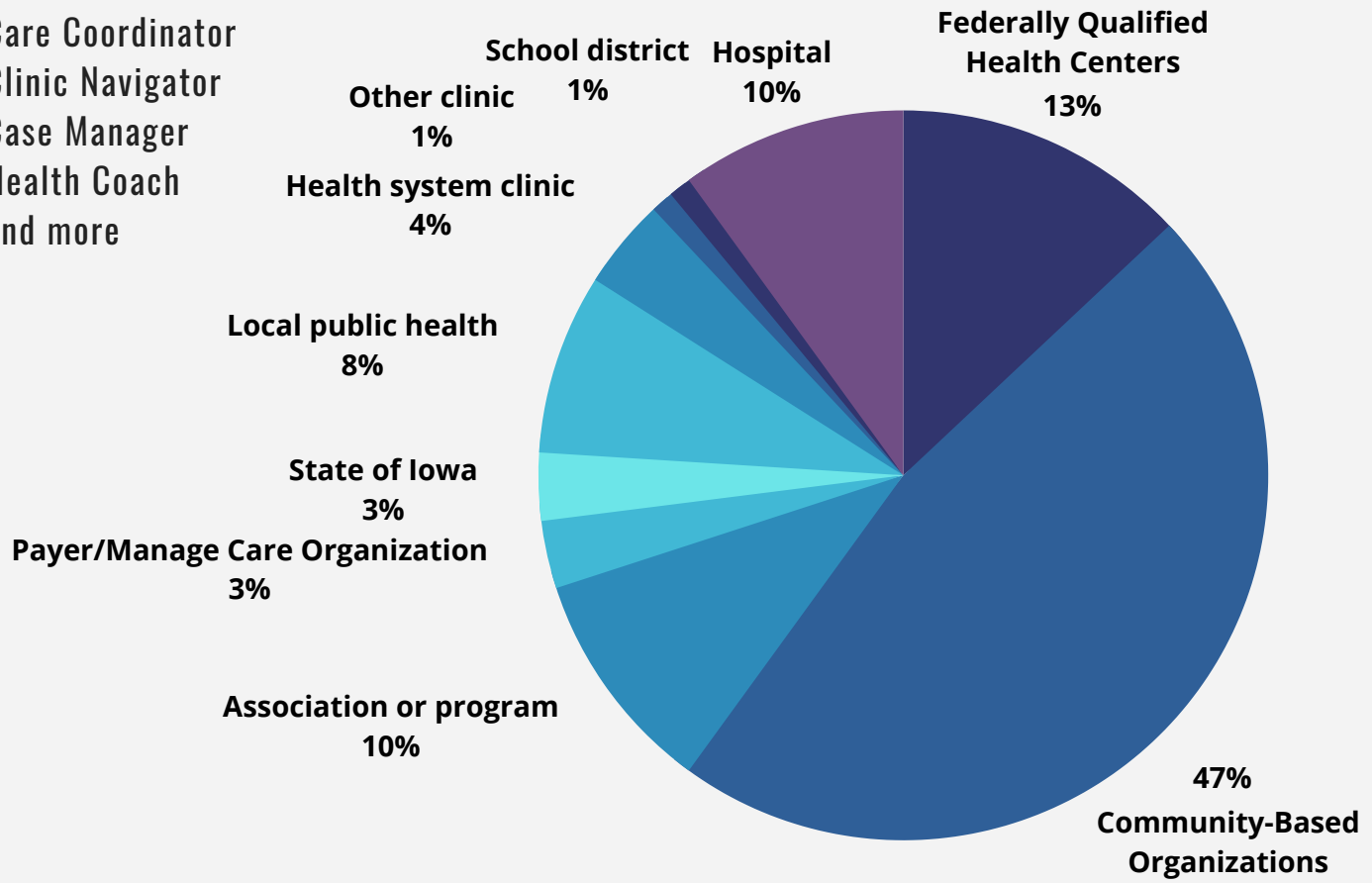
Top six issues CHWs assist clients with:

- Transportation
- Mental health
- Housing
- Healthcare access
- Food
- Income

Job Titles

Community Health Worker
Family Support Worker
Social Work Associate
Patient Support Services Coordinator
Family and Refugee Services Coordinator
Community Health Coordinator
Home Visitor Client Advocate
Outreach Specialist
Homeless Liaison
Care Coordinator
Clinic Navigator
Case Manager
Health Coach
and more

Employers of CHWs



The data shared on this page is reflective of experiences shared by recent graduates of the CHW Professional Skills Training program sponsored by the Iowa Chronic Care Consortium. As such, they are not necessarily reflective of the experiences of the entire population of CHWs.