

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE (CHR) PROGRAM

An essential part of Native communities and the healthcare delivery system.



TRUSTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

CHRs serve as a link between the Indian health system, including associated health programs, and AI/AN patients and communities.



COMMUNITY ORIENTED CARE

The CHR program has made important contributions to community oriented primary health care services – bolstering primary and preventative health care.



CULTURALLY COMPETENT CARE

CHRs provide culturally competent outreach and facilitation services to members of the communities they serve – usually their own Tribal members.

ABOUT US!

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Community Health Representative (CHR) Program is an IHS-funded, tribally contracted program of well-trained and medically-guided community-based health workers. The CHR Program was established by Congress in 1968 in response to the expressed needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) governments, organizations, and the IHS, for a healthcare program that would provide an outreach component to meet specific tribal healthcare needs.

CHRs are trained in the skills of health care provision, disease control, and prevention and help to eliminate health disparities by removing barriers to care in their communities. CHRs are the frontline workforce focusing on improving Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) for underserved populations to decrease health inequities across the country using a community-based approach. CHR activities impact SDOH by increasing:

- access to care and coverage,
- social/cultural cohesion,
- transportation,
- food access,
- environmental quality,
- social justice,
- housing, and
- educational training opportunities.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

01

Relationship and Trust-Building: to identify the specific needs of clients

02

Communication: especially continuity and clarity, between provider and patient, and traditional knowledge and language

03

Social Determinants of Health: conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, including social connectedness, traditional knowledge, spirituality, relationship to the environment, and a shared history

OUR SUCCESSES

- Raised awareness about numerous health issues like colorectal cancer, suicide, and more.
- Conducted trainings.
- Increased screenings and community health improvements.



www.ihs.gov/chr