

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION PROCESS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor: Stewart E. Barlow

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a state certification for community health workers.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates a state certification for community health workers; and
- ▶ requires the Department of Health to administer the certification.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26-69-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-69-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-69-103, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-69-104, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-69-105, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-69-106, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-69-107, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26-69-101** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 69. COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION

26-69-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Capacity building" means strengthening an individual's or a community's ability to participate in shared decision making.

(2) "Community health worker" means an individual who:

(a) works to improve a social determinant of health;

(b) acts as an intermediary between a community and health services or social services to:

(i) facilitate access to services; or

(ii) improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery; and

(c) increases health knowledge and self-sufficiency of an individual or a community through outreach, capacity building, community education, informal counseling, social support, , and other similar activities .

(3) "Core-skill education" means education regarding each of the following:

(a) self-reliance ;

(b) outreach;

(c) capacity building;

(d) individual and community assessment;

(e) coordination skills;

(f) relationship building;

(g) facilitation of services;

(h) communication; ;

(i) professional conduct ; and

(j) health promotion.

(4) "Core-skill training" means:

(a) 90 hours of competency-based education; and

(b) 300 hours of community involvement as determined by the department through rule.

59 (5) "Social determinate of health" means any condition in which an individual or a
60 community lives, learns, works, plays, worships, or ages, that affects the individual's or the
61 community's health or quality of life outcomes or risks.

62 (6) "State certified" means that an individual has obtained the state certification
63 described in Subsection 26-69-104(1).

64 Section 2. Section 26-69-102 is enacted to read:

65 **26-69-102. Rulemaking.**

66 The department may make rules as authorized by this chapter in accordance with Title
67 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

68 Section 3. Section 26-69-103 is enacted to read:

69 **26-69-103. Community Health Worker Certification Advisory Board.**

70 The department shall notify the Health and Human Services Interim Committee if the
71 department determines that there is a need to create, by statute, a Community Health Worker
72 Certification Advisory Board.

73 Section 4. Section 26-69-104 is enacted to read:

74 **26-69-104. Certification -- Unlawful conduct.**

75 (1) The department shall issue to an individual who qualifies under this chapter a
76 certification as a state certified community health worker.

77 (2) An individual may not use the term "state certified" in conjunction with the
78 individual's work as a community health worker if the individual is not state certified.

79 (3) The department may fine an individual who violates Subsection (2) in an amount
80 up to \$100.

81 Section 5. Section 26-69-105 is enacted to read:

82 **26-69-105. Qualifications for certification.**

83 (1) The department shall issue a certification described in Section 26-69-104 to a
84 community health worker if the community health worker has:

85 (a) completed core-skill training administered by:

86 (i) the department;

87 (ii) a state professional association that:

88 (A) is associated with the community health worker profession; and

89 (B) is aligned with a national community health worker professional association; or

90 (iii) an entity designated by a state professional association described in Subsection
91 (1)(a)(ii);

92 (b) completed training regarding basic medical confidentiality requirements, including
93 the confidentiality requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
94 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936, as amended;

95 (c) completed an application as designed by the department with a signed statement
96 agreeing to abide by national standards of practice and ethics for community health workers;
97 and

98 (d) paid a fee established by the department under Section [63J-1-504](#).

99 (2) A community health worker with at least 4,000 hours of experience as a community
100 health worker is exempt from the core-skill training requirement described in Subsection
101 (1)(a).

102 Section 6. Section **26-69-106** is enacted to read:

103 **26-69-106. Certification is voluntary.**

104 This chapter does not prohibit an individual from acting as a community health worker,
105 if the individual does not have a certificate described in this chapter.

106 Section 7. Section **26-69-107** is enacted to read:

107 **26-69-107. Term of certification - Expiration - Renewal.**

108 (1) Subject to Subsection (2), the department shall issue each certification under this
109 chapter in accordance with a two-year renewal cycle.

110 (2) The department may by rule extend or shorten a renewal cycle by as much as one
111 year to stagger the renewal cycles that the department administers.

112 (3) (a) The department shall print the expiration date on the certification.

113 (b) Each certification automatically expires on the date shown on the certificate.

114 (c) The department shall establish procedures through rule to notify each state certified
115 community health worker when the certification is due for renewal.

116 (4) (a) The department shall renew a certification if the individual has:

117 (i) met each renewal requirement established by the department through rule; and

118 (ii) paid a certification renewal fee established by the department.

119 (b) A rule created by the department under Subsection (4)(a)(i) shall include a
120 requirement regarding:

- 121 (i) continuing education; and
- 122 (ii) maintaining professional conduct.