



## *Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers*

*c/o Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center, Inc.  
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### **New England Community Health Worker Summit Overview**

The [Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers](#) (MACHW) will host a New England Community Health Worker Summit April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. MACHW is the statewide professional association for CHWs in MA. We were founded in 2000 to enable CHWs to lead efforts to strengthen, define and promote the CHW workforce. The organization is a national leader among CHW organizations and is the oldest statewide CHW organization in New England.

The regional summit will bring together various federal agencies including but not limited to Office of Women's Health, Veterans' Administration, Department of Labor, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, state health departments, CHW organizations, CHW employers and several members of the Regional Health Equity Board, to enhance the understanding of the CHW role and vital integration into state and local plans to promote and improve community health and promote health equity.

The overarching goal of the CHW Summit is to foster collaboration between the New England states, federal agencies, health departments, community health workers and other stakeholders to improve health in the region. We anticipate this convening will enhance the discussions for collaboration between the above mentioned entities to maximize available resources.

Additional goals for the Summit are to strengthen the CHW workforce by:

- Developing a common understanding of the CHW workforce;
- Strengthening the public health system's capacity to reach, engage, and provide, quality care and support services to underserved communities, by institutionalizing CHWs ; and
- Enhancing collaboration among established and emerging CHW organizations in New England.

MACHW will convene stakeholders to facilitate the early conversations. Provided there is interest from meeting participants, we hope to host a New England CHW Summit on a regular basis.