Health Justice Now: The Path to Sustainable Financing for Community Health Workers

June 23rd 2022
Agenda

• Welcome & Housekeeping
• Background
• Panel Discussion
• Q&A
Families USA, a leading national voice for health care consumers, is dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care and improved health for all. We advance our mission through public policy analysis, advocacy, and collaboration with partners to promote a patient-and community-centered health system.

Working at the national, state, and community levels for over 35 years
Zoom Webinar Participant Controls

**Chat Box:** Open Chat to send messages to the host, panelists, and attendees.

**Raise Hand:** Press Raise Hand to indicate you have a question and would like to ask out loud.

**Question & Answer Box:** Open the Q&A window to ask questions to the hosts and panelists. We’ll either reply back to you directly or answer your question live.

You can choose to chat only the panelists, or all panelists and attendees.
Community health workers (CHWs) have long played an essential role in public health response and mitigating health disparities.

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a spotlight on CHWs and their critical role within communities and the health care system.

In March 2021, Congress enacted The American Rescue Plan Act, which allocated funding for the recruitment, hiring, and training of CHWs—recognizing CHWs as an essential part of the health care workforce.
• 17 states currently reimburse CHWs through their Medicaid programs

• Many CHW programs are financed using braided funds—a combination of philanthropic grants, public grants, and more traditional fee-for-service models

• Grants are usually time-limited, have limited scope, and are not designed with communities or CHWs as a part of the planning process
Families USA has been hosting a series of listening sessions to hear directly from CHWs and other relevant stakeholders about challenges and successes with supporting and scaling up the workforce.
Panelists

Maria Lemus, Executive Director, Vision y Compromiso

Richard Medina, Linkage to Care Specialist/Community Health Worker, Montefiore Medical Group

Mar Velez, MCP+MPH State Policy Senior Manager, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (She/her/hers)

Shannon Lijewski, NCHW, MBA, CHCEF Principal, Everyday Life Consulting (She/Her/Hers)
• What We Have Learned from Community Health Workers Throughout the Pandemic: Recommendations for Policymakers – Families USA
• NASHP state map – National Academy for State Health Policy
• Sustainable Financing of Community Health Worker Employment- National Association of Community Health Workers
• NACHW CHW Policy Platform- National Association of Community Health Workers
• APHA Community Health Workers Section- American Public Health Association
• California Department of Health Care Services CHW Medi-Cal benefit
• Community Health Worker Resources from Families USA
Dedicated to creating a nation where the best health and health care are equally accessible and affordable to all