

**Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)**  
Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative Meeting (CHWLC)

Howard County Health Department

Heroes Room A

March 12, 2026

10:00 – 11:30 am

8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD 21045

**Meeting Goals:** To start planning for the National CHW Awareness Week 2026; discuss plans for professional development opportunities; present about Healthcare Access of Maryland; and have a roundtable discussion on healthcare access in Howard County.

Meeting Agenda

*Meeting will start promptly at 10:00 am*

- 10:00 am – 10:10 Welcome and Announcements  
*María José Candanoza, Co-chair, CHWLC, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition*
- 10:10 – 10:25 National CHW Awareness Week 2026  
*Amanda Toohey, Co-chair, CHWLC, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition*
- 10:25– 10:45 Professional Development Opportunities  
*Amanda Toohey, Co-chair, CHWLC, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition*
- 10:40 – 11:05 Healthcare Access of Maryland  
*Richard Amador, CCHW, Outreach Manager, Connector Program*
- 11:05– 11:25 Roundtable Discussion on Healthcare Access in Howard County  
*María José Candanoza, Co-chair, CHWLC, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition*
- 11:25 – 11:30 am Next Steps and Adjourn

## **Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative CHIP Action Plan Goals**

Goal 1. Create a centralized Community Health Worker (CHW) network across all organizations in Howard County to enhance collaboration, improve culturally appropriate, accessible, and inclusive resource sharing, and expand access to community-based health initiatives.

- Objective 1.1. By June 2028, lead efforts to connect CHWs across the county to share resources and funding opportunities.
- Objective 1.2. By June 2028, maintain and expand the CHWLC Workgroup membership to enhance workforce retention, foster professional development and ensure the long-term sustainability of CHW programs across the county.

Goal 2. Elevate CHWs as trusted advocates in healthcare and social services by strengthening public awareness, expanding professional development and fostering partnerships that improve access and equity in community health.

- Objective 2.1. By June 2028, develop best practices and expectations for CHWs to enhance professionalism, ensure consistency in service delivery and strengthen their role in bridging healthcare and social services.
- Objective 2.2. By June 2028, establish a sustainable network connecting CHWs with community organizations, schools, local leaders and businesses by portraying the positive impact of CHWs in the community, developing structured referral mechanisms, fostering ongoing partnerships and increasing awareness of CHW contributions to healthcare and social services.
- Objective 2.3. By June 2028, integrate CHWs into existing Howard County Health Department (HCHD) programs by developing structured workflows that enhance coordination, streamline service delivery and strengthen CHW engagement in healthcare and social services.