



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER** • Governor  
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**NC OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH**

## CHW Vendor Winddown Communications

Over the past two years, our Community Health Worker (CHW) partners have been instrumental in North Carolina's fight against COVID-19. Working in all 100 counties across the state, CHWs have supported over 3.2 million North Carolinians with key connections to food, housing, transportation, and health-related services. Throughout the pandemic, these frontline workers continue to be essential to ensuring our most vulnerable populations had access to local and state resources needed to prepare and respond.

*After December 31, 2022, pandemic-related CDC funding will be depleted, and funding is not available to sustain the CHW program at the same scale and scope.*

Vendors are encouraged to work with NCDHHS ORH and additional funders to identify opportunities outside of ORH to continue CHW efforts aligned with each organization's mission. It is likely that any funding opportunity identified would not sustain operations for most vendors at their current scale and scope. CHW vendors should prepare accordingly for a program wind-down and are encouraged to notify their staff, including CHWs, of future planning.

We understand that our Vendor partners remain committed to the communities they serve and are working to identify ways to continue to serve them. We recognize that CHWs continue to work across North Carolina to understand community needs and connect individuals and families with services that address social drivers of health. Resources remain available via 2-1-1, NCCARE360, local Divisions of Social Services, and Healthy Opportunities Pilots in 3 pilot regions (Regions 1, 5 and 6) (for vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries). NCDHHS will continue to identify additional funding mechanisms for CHW employers, such enrollment as a Human Services Organization within Healthy Opportunities Pilots or further integration into NC Medicaid.

When possible, vendors should link to resources for CHW employment, including the NC CHW Association at <https://ncchwa.org/en/>. We encourage Vendors to support CHWs in completing the CHW Standardized Core Competency Training as required by ORH-vendor contracts through December 31, 2022. Vendors are also encouraged to assist CHWs in obtaining certification through the NC CHW Association prior to the end of the contract period. NCDHHS will also notify vendors via email of CHW employment opportunities if external employment opportunities arise.

In addition, the Division of Health Benefits (Medicaid) has issued guidance with regard to CHWs and the opportunity for Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) to incorporate them in whole person care teams. Please see the Released guidance (<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/media/11810/download?attachment>) for PHPs working with CHWs as well as a blog post (<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2022/07/13/integrating-community-health-workers-nc-medicaid>).

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