

Illinois Health Care and Human Service Reform Act (H.B. 0158)

Status as of 4/27/2021: Governor Approved, effective Public Act 102-0004

The Illinois Health Care and Human Service Reform Act (H.B. 0158) aims to dramatically reform the State of Illinois's health and human services system in order to improve health outcomes of Black residents. The Act recognizes the vital role that community health workers (CHWs) play in reducing health disparities, through patient education and chronic disease management. Article 5 of the Act creates the Community Health Worker Certification and Reimbursement Act, which consists of three main components: training, certification, and reimbursement.

Community Health Worker Training

The Act calls for multi-tiered academic and community-based CHW training opportunities.

- For academic-based training programs, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is directed to work with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to adopt a program certification process.
- For community-based training programs, IDPH is directed to work with a statewide association representing community health workers* to adopt a program certification process.

The Act states that CHWs may need to undergo additional training focused on specific conditions, including asthma, diabetes, and behavioral health.

Community Health Worker Certification

The Act creates the Illinois Community Health Worker Certification Board, a regulatory body that will help develop and oversee certifications for CHWs and training programs.

- The Board will sit within IDPH and share leadership with a statewide association representing community health workers.
- The Board will include representatives from various state agencies, as well as other stakeholders such as CHWs, CHW employers, and training organizations.
- The Board will establish criteria to grandparent in CHWs who were practicing prior to the establishment of a certification program.

Approval of training programs will be based on core competencies, best practices, and affordability. The Board will look to other states to help determine best practices for trainings and certification. Certification may be required for reimbursement of services, but will not be a requirement for employment generally.

Reimbursement of Services

The Act states that, subject to appropriation, Medicaid shall cover certain CHW services (as determined by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). The services will include, but are not limited to, care coordination and diagnosis-related patient services.

To be reimbursed by Medicaid, CHWs will need to be certified and supervised by an enrolled medical program provider. For reimbursement through managed care administrative moneys, CHWs may not need to meet the certification requirements. State contracts with managed care entities will be amended to allow entities to employ CHWs or subcontract with community-based organizations that employ CHWs.

* The "statewide association representing community health workers" has been currently identified as the Illinois Community Health Worker Association (ILCHWA).



This program and resource is made possible with the generous support of the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation. The resource does not provide legal representation or advice. For specific legal questions, please consult an attorney.