

# Community Health Workers (CHWs) on the Cutting Edge: Innovative Ways to Support and Enhance the Roles of CHWs within Healthy Start

## Presenters:

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## Presentation Objectives

1. Participants will gain an understanding of the role Healthy Start plays at the state-level in Michigan to advance the work force development of CHWs.
2. Participants will gain an understanding of the impact CHWs have in CAN and collective impact efforts supporting participant involvement.
3. Participants will gain an understanding of a model of care where CHWs are integrated as a member of the health care team.

4. Participants will gain an understanding of the role of CHWs role as a member of the research team.

## Highlights (including quotes, charts, graphs)

### Topic 1

- Community Health Workers have been a unique feature of Healthy Start projects since 1991.

### Topic 2

- Developing common missions is relational work that takes time and thrives best when it is intentional and specific enough to incorporate what is meaningful to each partner.

### Topic 3

- CHWs' involvement in CAN is threefold: they help develop and implement the strategic action plan; they are participants in the initiatives and activities; and they are fully up-to-date with the mission and vision of the effort.

### Topic 4

- CHWs are an integral part of a research team. Benefit from working with a research team to the CHWs themselves include: increases in self-esteem, desire to learn, community involvement, prestige in their communities, a sense of satisfaction in helping others, and a desire to continue doing so even on project completion.

### Topic 5

- CHWs' participation in the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA) promotes and sustains the integration of CHWs into the health and human systems through policy and workforce development.