



ISSUE DATE March 19, 2026	EFFECTIVE DATE April 18, 2026	NUMBER 08-26-50, 09-26-50, 10-26-08, 13-26-01, 31-26-50, 33-26-45
SUBJECT Community Health Worker Enrollment in the Medical Assistance Program		BY  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISe-Enrollment.aspx>.

PURPOSE:

This bulletin is to advise providers that community health workers (CHWs) may enroll in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program to render services to beneficiaries in the MA managed care delivery system, effective April 18, 2026.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to CHWs seeking to enroll in the MA Program to render services to members of a HealthChoices physical health managed care organization (PH-MCO) and providers who recommend CHW services, which include physicians, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and independent medical clinics. Questions pertaining to the coverage and payment for CHW services rendered should be directed to the appropriate PH-MCO. The Department of Human Services (Department) will maintain oversight of each PH-MCO's coverage of CHW services, as required by the HealthChoices Agreement.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

CHWs are trusted individuals who contribute to improved health outcomes for individuals with chronic health concerns. CHWs serve the communities in which they reside or communities with which they may share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, or lived experiences.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Fee-for-Service Provider Service Center: 1-800-537-8862

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/departments-offices/omap-info>

Historically within the managed care delivery system, the PH-MCOs have included CHWs as part of their Community Based Care Management (CBCM) Program. The CBCM Program encourages the use of preventive services, mitigates Health-Related Social Needs barriers, reduces healthcare disparities, and improves maternal and child health. Additionally, CHWs are required providers in the Patient Centered Medical Home program, and Maternity Care Bundled Payment model.

In accordance with the 2026 HealthChoices Agreement, the PH-MCOs are now required to cover three CHW encounters per year when recommended by MA enrolled physicians, physician assistants, certified registered nurse practitioners or certified nurse midwives for qualifying members with one or more of the following medical conditions: asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, diabetes or pre-diabetes, heart disease, hypercholesterolemia, hypertension, obesity, or the prescribed use of multiple medications. The Department identified the following CHW services as appropriate for MA beneficiaries: health education to close care gaps, support to connect to community resources, assistance in enrolling with government services, guidance in health system navigation, and support in health-condition management.

To facilitate the provision of CHW services by PH-MCOs, the Department will enroll CHWs for participation in the MA Program's managed care delivery system in accordance with 42 CFR §§ 438.602(b) and 438.608(b), and will screen, enroll, and periodically revalidate CHWs in accordance with 42 CFR 455, subparts B and E. CHWs that choose to enroll in the MA Program must meet the certification requirements identified by the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) to render recommended services to MA Program beneficiaries enrolled in a PH-MCO. Information on this certification can be found on the PCB website at the following link: <https://www.pacertboard.org/cchw>.

CHWs who will not be identified as a rendering provider on a claim submitted to a PH-MCO do not need to be enrolled in the MA Program.

CHWs are not currently identified as a distinct provider in Pennsylvania's Medicaid State Plan; therefore, enrollment in the MA Program does not authorize coverage of or payment for services rendered within the Fee-for-Service delivery system.

PROCEDURE:

Effective April 18, 2026, the Department will begin to enroll CHWs certified by the PCB as a Certified Community Health Worker. Certified CHWs will be enrolled as a Provider Type 13, defined as "Non-Traditional Provider," with a Provider Specialty Code of 139, to render services in the managed care delivery system as follows:

Provider Type	Specialty Code	Specialty Code Description
13	139	Certified Community Health Worker

Information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application may be viewed by accessing the Enrollment Information page on the Department's website at the following link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/for-providers/provider-enrollment-information/provider-enrollment-documents>.

A CHW may submit an online provider enrollment application using the Department's secure web portal following the instructions in the application. For questions about enrollment, providers can contact Provider Enrollment at 1-800-537-8862, option 2, and then option 4.

RESOURCES:

For a list of contact information for the PH-MCOs currently enrolled in the MA Program by region, visit the PH-MCO Directory: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/providers/providers/documents/managed-care-information/pennsylvania-medicaid-managed-care-directory.pdf>.