

2026 Community-Based Workforce Alliance's Day on the Hill

Strengthening and Sustaining the Community-Based Workforce: Improving Health, Trust, and Local Communities

Community-based workforces improve health, reduce costs, and strengthen communities by providing trusted, culturally grounded support across the lifespan. Yet despite decades of evidence demonstrating impact, these workforces remain fragmented, underfunded, and excluded from many of the decisions shaping healthcare transformation. On April 16, 2026, the [Health Equity Community Collaborative's Community-Based Workforce Alliance \(CBWA\)](#) convened national frontline leaders, professionals, advocates, researchers, and policymakers on Capitol Hill to elevate one clear message:

Community-Based Workforces are essential to America's health.

The “Strengthening and Sustaining the Community-Based Workforce: Improving Health, Trust, and Local Communities” Congressional Briefing, hosted in partnership with the [National Association of Community Health Workers](#) and [Health Leads](#), demonstrated the power of bringing the full spectrum of community-based workforces together.

CBWA was honored to convene over a dozen national and local leaders from across the country in an event that centered the voices of community-based leaders with lived experience, including CHWs, promotoras, doulas, nurses, midwives, caregivers, and people living with chronic disease.



While CBWA leaders distributed hundreds of advocacy one-pagers detailing personal stories and impact, the Congressional Briefing centered on how community-based workforces (CBWs) advance whole-person, whole-family, and whole-community health across the lifespan. Through maternal and child health support, chronic disease prevention, behavioral health, rural health initiatives, trusted health communication, and community-rooted care coordination, CBWs deliver better health to our families rooted in compassion and respect. Speakers also advocated for stronger workforce development, sustainable financing, and national policy action to strengthen and sustain these essential workforces.

This was more than a briefing. It was a national call to action.

Community-based workforces already improve health outcomes, strengthen trust, reduce costs, and bridge gaps that traditional systems alone cannot solve. The question is no longer whether these workforces matter - it is whether systems will invest in and follow the leadership of the people who have been doing this work all along.

Strengthening CBWs is one of the most cost-effective, community-driven strategies we have - and now is the moment to act.

CBWA Is Calling For:

- Federal investment in CBWs
- Stronger workforce development and sustainable professional career pathways
- Inclusion of CBW leaders in policy and financing decisions
- Quality-based measures and data-driven accountability frameworks co-designed with CBW associations
- Improved integration and coordination across community-based workforce roles

Acknowledgements

We extend our deep appreciation to the members of Congress, congressional staff, and local advocates who met with CBWA leaders. A special thanks to Representative Hollander and his team who supported in the logistics and coordination of this special event.

The [Community-Based Workforce Alliance](#) (CBWA), a national coalition under the [Health Equity Community Collaborative](#) (HECC), works to strengthen, sustain, and protect community-based professionals nationwide. The HECC and CBWA are initiatives sponsored by [Health Leads](#).

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