

[CHW Alliance Website](#)

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Senate and House of Representatives,

On behalf of **Mayo Clinic Health System**, I am writing to you to express our support for the Community Health Worker (CHW) line item in the Governor's Supplemental Budget to educate, strengthen, equip, evaluate and grow the CHW workforce.

CHWs are the health equity workforce. Many CHWs represent BIPOC communities. They come from the communities they serve, providing the link to coverage and care, and are an investment in those communities. Research indicates that CHWs show a return on investment of at least three dollars for every dollar invested in them. They serve as liaisons between health care, social service systems, and communities. They also work in other systems such as public safety, public schools, childcare, elder services and many more.

CHWs at Mayo Clinic Health System play a key role in addressing patient's barriers to care, connecting patients to community resources, and teaching patients about their health concern(s). They are a valued member of the care team and help us incorporate cultural components into the care we deliver to our patients. We have seen improved health outcomes for patients that are in our CHW program: 85% improvement in our Somali diabetic patients, 67% improvement in our Latino patients for colorectal screening. Without our CHW program, these patients experience barriers to care that continue to impact health struggles, and the only care they receive will be the emergency room visits when their care is escalated to a point of critical need.

CHWs' work is trauma-informed, and they are uniquely positioned to improve health outcomes and health equity within our state. This funding will lead to increased healthcare access, lower healthcare costs and improved health outcomes for your constituents facing health inequities and barriers to care. Additionally, this bill will further support and grow the CHW workforce.

Mayo Clinic Health System respectfully urges you to support the funding for CHWS in the Governor's Budget and supplemental budget discussions. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jen Quiring

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Regional Operations

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