



# The Healthy Living Collaborative of Southwest Washington

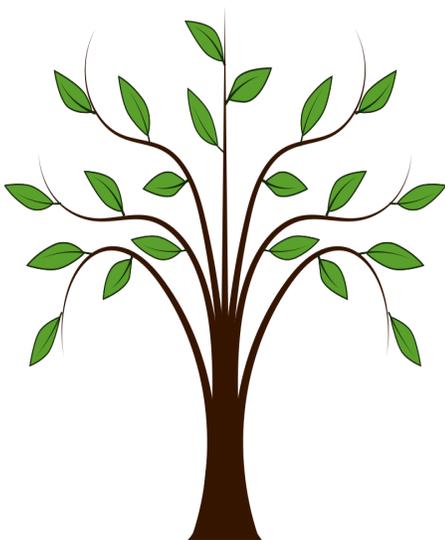
## Community Health Workers



The HLC is committed to community engagement. We recruited and trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) in three distinct locations: Rose Village in Vancouver; South Kelso, and Wahkiakum County. CHWs are trusted, knowledgeable frontline health workers who typically come from the communities they serve. HLC CHWs work directly with their communities to address the consequences of multi-generational racial, economic, social, and health inequities.

## What CHWs do:

CHWs help identify and address basic needs, connect neighbors to one another and to service providers, and improve community health by activating capacity and empowering local action. They amplify the voices of their vulnerable and marginalized neighbors and ensure that HLC strategies and partner organizations' policies and systems are designed and carried out in response to community wisdom.



**Provide** information, connection, and support.

**Engage** people in advocacy, wellness, and activities.

**Advocate** for the needs of the community.

**Connect** people to community resources.

**Empower** individuals and communities.



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## **HLC CHWs are trained in several core areas.**

For many of the CHWs, this is a pre-employment workforce development opportunity. The skills they develop will increase their value to both the nonprofit and health care sectors.



### **CHWs are trained to:**

- \* Create more effective linkages between communities and systems
- \* Provide health education and information
- \* Assist and advocate for underserved individuals to receive appropriate services
- \* Provide informal counseling
- \* Address basic needs
- \* Build community capacity to address health issues
- \* Assure people get the services they need

## ***HLC CHW Program Objectives***



Engage individuals, families and populations that professionals have difficulty reaching.

Provide culturally appropriate and useful health and human service system information to high-need families and neighbors.

Increase community capacity to promote health and well-being.

Increase social connections, improve resilience, and reduce isolation amongst families.

Increase CHWs employment skills.

Reduce chronic disease through increased use of prevention tactics, chronic disease management, and appropriate use of health care and other social and community services.

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