



# Resilient Yellowstone

## Community Health Workers (CHWs) for Resilience

### OUR STORY

In 2021, the Healthy By Design (HBD) Coalition received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to **hire community health workers (CHWs) at healthcare and community organizations to build resilience in Yellowstone County**. The Resilient Yellowstone initiative is working with local organizations to recruit, train, and deploy CHWs to address health issues for those hardest hit by the pandemic and build resilience to weather future crises. Communities of focus include individuals with disabilities, Native Americans, older adults, and lower-income residents.

### What is resilience?

Community resilience is the ability to withstand, adapt, and recover from a disaster or public health emergency (NACCHO). The overall health of a community and function of its systems are essential to resilience.

### OUR GOALS



1. Build a skilled CHW workforce in Yellowstone County to improve health for all
2. Identify health needs for groups most negatively affected by the pandemic
3. Build individual and community ability to address health issues
4. Build sustainability and longevity into CHW work

### OUR PARTNERS

Adult Resource Alliance  
Big Sky Senior Services  
Billings Clinic  
Billings Chamber of Commerce  
Living Independently For Today & Tomorrow  
Native American Development Corporation  
RiverStone Health  
Intermountain Health St. Vincent Regional Hospital

### OUR RESULTS

#### So Far We Have...

- Hired & trained 13 CHWs!  

- Made ~22,000 referrals to services  

- Conducted ~76,000 outreaches to individuals and ~200,000 mass outreaches and article publications



# Resilient Yellowstone Community Health Workers (CHWs) for Resilience

## WHO CHWS ARE

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers and **trusted community members**.

CHWs usually share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, or life experiences with the community members they serve.

CHWs can also be called: peer support or mentor, health advocate, outreach worker, health navigator, promotores(as) and more.

## HOW CHWS WORK

CHWs support access to services and help address the root causes of poor health, including:

- Unstable housing
- Food insecurity
- Discrimination by age, race, gender, etc.
- Unemployment
- And much more

## WHY CHWS: STUDIES SHOW...

### A Smart Investment

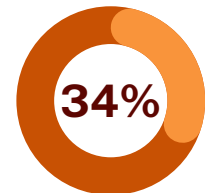
**\$1 : \$2.47**

Every \$1 for CHWs creates a \$2.47 return on investment for Medicaid payers.



### Reduced Hospitalizations

Reduced total number of hospital days per capita by 34%.



### And more!

CHW interventions were found to be more effective and economical for managing certain chronic diseases.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT CHWS AND THE RESILIENT YELLOWSTONE PROJECT

You can visit the Healthy By Design website at [hbdc.org](http://hbdc.org), email the Project Coordinator at [amanda@hbdc.org](mailto:amanda@hbdc.org), or sign up for regular project updates through the Healthy By Design e-newsletter.



### Sources

- <https://healthinfo.montana.edu/bhwet/chw/>
- <https://nihcm.org/publications/community-health-workers-infographic>
- [https://www.c3project.org/\\_files/ugd/7ec423\\_c7b74700666e4dadb794850c5bdbfb29.pdf](https://www.c3project.org/_files/ugd/7ec423_c7b74700666e4dadb794850c5bdbfb29.pdf)
- <https://www.astho.org/globalassets/pdf/community-health-workers-summary-evidence.pdf>

