



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

Betty St Hilaire

Co-chair, Maine Community Health Worker Initiative's Advisory Committee

[betty.Sthilaire@mainegeneral.org](mailto:betty.Sthilaire@mainegeneral.org)

207-626-7340

**MAINE GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS AUGUST 26-30 COMMUNITY  
HEALTH WORKER AWARENESS WEEK**

**AUGUSTA, Maine** — Governor Janet Mills proclaims the week of August 26-30, 2024, as Community Health Worker (CHW) Awareness Week in Maine.

The Maine Community Health Workers Initiative (MECHWI) is proud to be recognized and celebrated for the work CHWs are doing in their Maine communities. This proclamation recognizes that CHWs are a vital part of Maine's health care system and that key stakeholders support a statewide plan to develop and sustain the CHW workforce.

CHWs serve as a connection between providers and individuals by promoting health, reducing disparities, and improving health service delivery.

“This initiative reflects our commitment to value the professional skills, unique understanding of communities, and life experiences of CHWs to improve health access and outcomes,” said Betty St. Hilaire, co-chair of MECHWI's advisory committee.

Throughout the week, the MECHWI will host a series of events and activities, including the second annual Community Health Workers Awareness Week event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, August 27, in the Maine State House Hall of Flags.

This year's event, called CHWs, The Key to Success, will advocate and highlight the pivotal role of CHWs in Maine's health care system. CHWs are encouraged to attend in celebrating the awareness week.

Last year's event brought together more than 50 CHWs and allies from across Maine to inform state legislators and communities about the CHW profession and offer an opportunity to learn from CHW organizations.

### **About the Maine Community Health Worker Initiative**

The Maine Community Health Worker Initiative (MECHWI) is expanding the important work being done by CHWs throughout Maine. The initiative has a strong foundation to build and sustain a vibrant CHW profession with support from many partners. Learn more:

<https://www.mechw.org/>.

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