



Community Health Education Center (CHEC)  
Boston Public Health Commission

### ***Comprehensive Outreach Education Certificate Program (COEC)***

#### **What is COEC?**

The COEC program is a two-part, 80-hour training program that covers core competencies Community Health Workers (CHWs) need to provide effective community outreach and health education work in community-based settings. The training emphasizes skills to prepare CHWs to serve in a variety of functions including culturally appropriate health education and outreach, navigating the health and human service systems, assuring access to services, advocating for individual and community needs, and building individual and community capacity. In addition, the training encourages CHWs to become proficient on health issues affecting diverse communities and introduces them to a public health framework for understanding these issues.

#### **What are the 2-Parts?**

Part 1 consists of *core competency sessions* and aims to help improve community health workers' skills in areas crucial to achieve positive outcomes through outreach work in their community. Core competency topics include: Leadership Skills, Outreach Methods and Strategies, Client and Community Assessment, Effective Communication, Cultural Responsiveness & Mediation, Professional Skills & Conduct, Advocacy & Care Coordination, Documentation, Public Health Concepts, Community Organizing, and Education to Promote Behavior Change.

Part 2 consists of *health modules* that are offered on a variety of health issues affecting the communities across the state. Each module covers important facts and local resource information.

The **COEC Program** is a **minimum of 80 hours** of public health education training. To obtain the certificate, community health workers must attend ALL core sessions and take 18 hour minimum of health modules (or 2 full day and 2 half day modules).

#### **Is there a training fee?**

Yes. The cost of the COEC Program is \$650. Your agency is required to pay this fee.

#### **What are the training dates?**

There are 3 cycles: Fall: September-November, Winter: January-March, and Spring: April-June. Specific dates depend on the health modules community health workers select. All trainings begin at 9:30am and are held at CHEC, 860 Harrison Avenue, 2nd Floor, Boston. **Graduation ceremony will be held in June.**

#### **Who can attend?**

Enrollment is available for community health workers or volunteers who are currently employed by a community health center or community based organization to do at least 20 hours a week of community outreach and health education.

#### **How do I register?**

For registration forms, please visit our internet page at [www.bphc.org/CHEC](http://www.bphc.org/CHEC)

For more information please call the Community Health Education Center at **617-534-2432** or email at [Ltavares@bphc.org](mailto:Ltavares@bphc.org)