

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1831

By: Hefner, Stinson, Roe,  
Harris, and Ranson of the  
House

3  
4 and

Gillespie of the Senate

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7  
8 An Act relating to community health workers; creating  
9 the Oklahoma Community Health Workers Act; defining  
10 terms; directing establishment of certificate; making  
11 certification voluntary; authorizing certified  
12 community health workers to perform certain  
13 functions; providing eligibility requirements for  
14 voluntary certification; requiring and authorizing  
15 promulgation of certain rules; directing  
16 establishment of certain fees; providing for  
17 codification; and providing an effective date.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280 of Title 59, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
24 Community Health Workers Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.1 of Title 59, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Workers Act:

1 1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health  
2 worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a  
3 certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in  
4 this state;

5 2. "Community health worker" means a frontline health worker  
6 who has a shared understanding of and is a trusted member of the  
7 community being served;

8 3. "Core competencies" means the knowledge and skills a  
9 certified community health worker is expected to demonstrate in  
10 order to carry out the mission and goals of the profession as  
11 defined by the Department through the promulgation of administrative  
12 regulations in accordance with state guidelines; and

13 4. "Department" means the State Department of Health as  
14 established to direct guidance, in collaboration with the State  
15 Community Health Worker Association or Advisory Committee, in  
16 relation to community health worker training, certification, and  
17 recertification protocols.

18 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.2 of Title 59, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. The State Department of Health shall establish a certificate  
22 for community health workers. This certification shall be  
23 voluntary.

24 B. A certified community health worker may:

1 1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and  
2 the community, including faith-based organizations, to facilitate  
3 access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence  
4 of service delivery;

5 2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current  
6 community and health care resources; and

7 3. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health  
8 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as  
9 outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support,  
10 and advocacy, including efforts within faith-based settings.

11 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.3 of Title 59, unless there  
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 Eligibility to apply for voluntary certification, in order to be  
15 eligible to apply for community health worker certification, an  
16 individual shall:

17 1. Be a legal United States resident;

18 2. Be a resident of Oklahoma;

19 3. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and

20 4. Provide evidence to the Department of his or her work  
21 experience as a community health worker, demonstrating a minimum of  
22 one thousand (1,000) practical hours and recommendation from a  
23 supervising provider, shall be considered certified under this work  
24 experience pathway provision.

1           SECTION 5.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.4 of Title 59, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           A.   The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules to:

5           1.   Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified  
6 community health workers' initial coursework or curriculum;

7           2.   Establish examination administration requirements for the  
8 Department;

9           3.   Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be  
10 certified; and

11           4.   Establish the criteria for granting, renewing, denying,  
12 suspending, and revoking a certificate to uphold health standards  
13 and safety.

14           B.   The Commissioner may also promulgate rules to establish  
15 partnerships with faith-based organizations to enhance community  
16 health outreach and service delivery, including, but not limited to:

17           1.   Recognizing faith-based organizations as eligible entities  
18 for community health worker training and certification programs when  
19 they meet established state standards;

20           2.   Facilitating collaboration between community health workers  
21 and faith-based organizations to improve health access, prevention,  
22 and health literacy efforts in underserved communities;

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1       3. Supporting faith-based health initiatives through technical  
2 assistance and programmatic support for community health workers  
3 working within congregations and religious institutions; and

4       4. Encouraging the integration of community health workers into  
5 existing faith-based outreach programs to enhance culturally  
6 competent care and strengthen trust in community health efforts.

7       C. The Commissioner shall prescribe fees for the certified  
8 community health worker examination, initial certification, and  
9 certification renewal.

10       SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

11       Passed the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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