

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 424

By: Gillespie and Nice of the
Senate

and

Hefner, Ranson, Harris,
Roe, Pfeiffer, West
(Tammy), and Osburn of the
House

An Act relating to community health workers; creating the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; providing short title; defining terms; directing establishment of certificate; making certification voluntary; listing functions of community health worker; requiring and prohibiting certain acts by community health worker; providing eligibility criteria; directing promulgation of certain rules; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Community health workers

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063a of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063b of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

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

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

3. "Department" means the State Department of Health.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063c of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

B. A certified community health worker may:

1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services, to improve the quality of service delivery, and to maximize the efficiency of service delivery by coordinating available resources and leveraging partnerships with private, nonprofit, or faith-based organizations;

2. Assist individuals in attaining employment, education, occupational training, or other means of supporting employment and promoting self-sufficiency;

3. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current community and health care resources; and

4. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as

outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support, and advocacy, including efforts within faith-based settings.

C. In carrying out the functions described in paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section, community health workers shall emphasize available resources of private, nonprofit, or faith-based organizations, and shall not rely solely on public assistance programs for delivery of services.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063d of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

To be eligible for voluntary community health worker certification, an individual shall:

1. Be a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident;
2. Be a resident of this state;
3. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
4. Meet the minimum qualifications for certification promulgated by the State Commissioner of Health under Section 5 of this act.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063e of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this act including, but not limited to, rules that:

1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;
2. Establish examination administration requirements for the State Department of Health or one or more designees;
3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be certified; provided, however, the applicant shall be exempt from any

educational, training, or examination requirements if the applicant has provided evidence to the State Department of Health of work experience as a community health worker demonstrating a minimum of one thousand (1,000) practical hours and a recommendation from a supervising provider;

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

5. Prescribe fees for the certified community health worker examination, initial certification, and certification renewal; and

6. Implement oversight procedures to ensure compliance with the provisions of this act, including a complaint and disciplinary process for violations.

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

Passed the Senate the 26th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____