

For Immediate Release  
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**Community  
HealthWorks**

FORMERLY SACRAMENTO COVERED

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## **Sacramento Covered Becomes Community HealthWorks to Align With Expanded Mission and Impact**

Sacramento, Calif. – After 25 years of connecting people to health care and coverage services to improve health outcomes, Sacramento Covered is changing names and becoming Community HealthWorks (CoHeWo). The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to achieving health care access for all is updating its identity to better align with its evolving mission and populations served.

“The work that community health workers (CHWs) are tackling has always been important among efforts to improve regional health, economic and social outcomes,” said Community HealthWorks CEO and Founder Kelly Bennett. “As our services and geographic reach have expanded, and as state leaders are recognizing the impact that frontline workers, including CHWs, are having on communities, we felt it was important to update our identity as we enter the next 25 years of service to the region. With the backing of the region’s health systems, state and local government, as well as our dedicated workforce of CHWs, we will continue to help navigate complex and challenging issues for our community and strive for equitable health access for all.”

Community HealthWorks is committed to helping people achieve their health goals by providing personalized and culturally responsive support to help individuals overcome barriers to care, connect to needed services and navigate complex systems. At the center of the organization's name and labor force is “community health worker” – a frontline public health worker who is knowledgeable of health and social resources, a trusted member of the community with a deep understanding of and ties with the community served. CoHeWo’s staff of community health workers includes field-based CHWs, patient and health navigators, housing specialists, and social workers working to connect individuals and families with health coverage, primary and preventative care, behavioral health care, housing, food, and other critical resources to promote stability, self-sufficiency and improved health.

Beyond the initial mission of Sacramento Covered, CoHeWo’s expanded programs are providing direct support from CHWs on the frontlines. The Reentry program assists individuals immediately who are leaving incarceration through a “Community Cafe” located near the Sacramento County Main Jail. CHWs are also providing enhanced care management and

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community support to eligible Medi-Cal members, many of who are the most vulnerable populations in our community -- homeless, those transitioning from incarceration, those experiencing mental illness, those at risk of frequent visits to hospital emergency departments. With the state's expansion of service, as well as certification of CHWs and more of their services becoming billable to the Medi-Cal program, a path for greater expansion of the role is envisioned.

Since the organization's inception in 1998, the mission and services have evolved, in response to the needs of the community. The team of 150 employees serves as fierce advocates for their clients, provides expert insight to government organizations seeking to improve outcomes, and partners with aligned organizations working with some of the most vulnerable populations including people experiencing homelessness, those leaving incarceration, immigrant communities, and those with mixed immigration status.

In 2022 alone, CoHeWo programs:

- Served 21,729 unique clients with more than 124,720 unique services.
- Over 11,000 community members were supported with health literacy and education
- 2,411 individuals were enrolled or renewed into health coverage
- 8,917 patients in five local hospital emergency departments were served by CHWs with 54% scheduled for follow-up visits after discharge
- 2,648 people received housing assistance and care coordination support
- 2,900 individuals received enrollment and education support for CalFresh
- 374 people experiencing homelessness worked with a CHW to leave street homelessness by moving into shelter and permanent housing options

In the coming weeks, CoHeWo will host its annual Healthy Community Day on Saturday, October 21 at Fruitridge Community Collaborative – 4625 44th Street Sacramento, CA 95820. The free, open to the public event will offer health screenings, vaccinations (Flu and COVID-19), fresh produce, haircuts, health coverage enrollment and renewal assistance, free diapers and more! CoHeWo has partnered with Sacramento Building Healthy Communities to host the event, and annual support comes from Dignity Health, Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health and UC Davis Health.

For more information visit [CoHeWo.org](https://CoHeWo.org) or follow on Instagram or Facebook.

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