

# HLT 193 STUDIES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COURSE @ PVCC

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR HLT 193



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

## THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ROLE

### DEFINITION OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW)

“A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A community health worker also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.”

—American Public Health Association

**Important qualities for a CHW include someone who is:**

- Open
- Trusted in their community
- Responsible
- Eager to learn
- Committed to health for self and others

**Important qualities for a CHW include someone who has:**

- Good observation skills
- Strong communication and listening skills
- A commitment to their community
- Natural leadership qualities

## PVCC'S CHW COURSE (HLT 193)

PVCC first offered HLT 193 *Studies in Community Health Worker* in Spring 2020. Previously, the course was offered through the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD) as a community training.

HLT 193 is a four (4) credit course offered through Piedmont Virginia Community College. In addition to receiving college credit for this course, students will gain an understanding of the CHW role, enhance employable CHW skills, learn foundational concepts in community health and health promotion, apply preventive health knowledge, practice outreach and advocacy skills in their community, and connect directly with many local agencies and services.

The course places primary emphasis on training CHWs to serve as valuable members of care teams and/or as system and community navigators.

### CERTIFICATION AS A CHW IN VIRGINIA

CHWs can get certified in Virginia through the Virginia Certification Board (VCB). Currently, one required component is 60-hours of CHW training across the 7 CHW domains.

PVCC is an approved training provider through the VCB.

### SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

Scholarship applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until August 11, 2023. *However, applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible so that they have time to receive scholarship notification prior to course registration.*

17 scholarships are available to course participants in the Fall 2023 course through a grant from the *Virginia Department of Health's State Office of Rural Health*. Scholarships will cover the cost of the course (~\$640). All course materials will be provided through PVCC's learning management system, Canvas; students do not need to buy any books for this class.

Scholarships will be processed on a rolling basis; you will be notified as soon as a decision about your application has been made. Due to grant requirements, applicants from the Blue Ridge Health District (Albemarle/Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson) will take precedent over other applicants. However, we encourage all interested participants to apply for a scholarship regardless of geographic location and reason for taking the course. We anticipate awarding scholarships to applicants in all categories listed below.

## SCHOLARSHIP PRIORITIZATION IS AS-FOLLOWS:

### Geography

1. Residents of the Blue Ridge Health District / Planning District 10
2. Residents from areas **outside** the Blue Ridge Health District / Planning District 10

### Reason for Taking the Course

1. Applicants currently working as volunteer or paid CHWs, peer support specialists, or other community outreach and systems navigation positions
2. Applicants currently working in front desk/client-facing positions that involve referrals and knowledge of community services and resources
3. Applicants interested in paid Community Health Worker positions upon course completion
4. Current PVCC students studying nursing or other health professions
5. Current PVCC students and community members taking the course for personal enrichment and/or as a general studies requirement

## TIMELINE AND STEPS FOR COURSE ENROLLMENT

- If you would like to apply for a scholarship to take this course, before registering for the course, complete the scholarship application.
- Scholarship decisions will be made on a rolling basis—typically within 1–2 weeks of receiving applications—applicants will be notified directly about the decision.
- If you are not selected for a scholarship, you are still welcome to register for the course, but will need to pay for the course yourself.

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#### For community members who are not current PVCC Students:

1. Once notified that you have received a scholarship, you MUST first apply to PVCC for admission: [https://www.apply.vccs.edu/applications/vccs/apply.html?application\\_id=4092](https://www.apply.vccs.edu/applications/vccs/apply.html?application_id=4092). PVCC has an open admissions policy.

*Note:* you will have to list a program of study (e.g. liberal arts or general studies) or indicate that you are taking the course for personal enrichment.

2. Once accepted for admission, follow instructions below to register for the HLT 193 (Studies in Community Health Worker) course.
  - Log in to [MyPVCC](#)
  - Select the Student Information System (SIS) application
  - Select “My Student Information”
  - Select “Class Search” from the toolbar on the left side of the screen
    - You will need to click “Class Search” again
  - Change the term to reflect “Fall 2023”
  - Enter **HLT** for the subject and **193** for the course number
  - Find the matching course and click “Select”
  - Select “Next” to add the class to your shopping cart
  - Select “Shopping Cart”, select the appropriate class (HLT 193) and “Enroll”

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#### For current PVCC Students:

1. Once notified that you have received a scholarship, register for HLT 193; the registration process is the same as for any other PVCC course.
2. If you have received confirmation of a scholarship award, **DO NOT** pay for the course. PVCC course staff will notify the Cashier’s Office to put a hold on your account for this course and arrange for payment out of the scholarship fund. *You should not be billed or receive any invoices for HLT 193.*

#### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the Scholarship Application at [PVCC HLT 193 Scholarship Application](#).

**For any questions, contact:** Tia Waters, Public Engagement Manager, [tia.waters@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:tia.waters@vdh.virginia.gov), (434) 981-4103

**THANK YOU!**

*We look forward to receiving your scholarship application! You will be notified of a scholarship decision within 1-2 weeks of submitting an application*