



## Public Law 111-148, HR 3590 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

### **SEC. 5313. GRANTS TO PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKFORCE** (P. 564)

The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall award grants to public or nonprofit private entities to promote positive health behaviors and outcomes for populations in medically underserved communities through the use of community health workers, in the following areas:

- 1) Educate, guide and provide outreach in a community setting regarding health problems;
- 2) Educate and provide guidance regarding effective strategies to promote health behaviors and discourage risky behaviors;
- 3) Educate and provide outreach regarding enrollment in health insurance, including Children's Health Insurance, Medicare and Medicaid;
- 4) Identify, educate, refer and enroll underserved populations to appropriate healthcare agencies and community-based programs to increase access to quality healthcare; or,
- 5) Educate, guide and provide home visitation services regarding maternal health and prenatal care.

A community health worker is defined using the Department of Labor standard Occupational Classification [21-1094] as follows:

#### **Community Health Worker definition**

An individual who promotes health or nutrition within the community in which the individual resides—

- (A) by serving as a liaison between communities and healthcare agencies;
- (B) by providing guidance and social assistance to community residents;
- (C) by enhancing community residents' ability to effectively communicate with healthcare providers;
- (D) by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health or nutrition education;
- (E) by advocating for individual and community health;
- (F) by providing referral and follow-up services or otherwise coordinating care; and
- (G) by proactively identifying and enrolling eligible individuals in Federal, State, local, private or nonprofit health and human services programs.

The community setting for service provision is a home or community organization located in the neighborhood in which a participant in the program resides. Priority will be given to applicants that target communities with high rates of uninsured/underinsured, chronic disease, or infant mortality. Priority will also be given to those organizations working with underserved communities that have documented community activity and experience with community health workers. Collaborations are encouraged with academic institutions and one-stop delivery systems funded via the Workforce Investment Act. Technical assistance may also be provided for the planning, developing and operating of programs under this act.

On December 23, 2009, during Senate debate of the Affordable Care Act, Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) stated, "I am encouraged by the language in Section 5313 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, *Grants to Promote the Community Health Workforce* and want to ensure that the definition of community health worker includes community-based doulas...Community-based doula programs are a proven example of the health outcomes that education, prevention and health literacy can bring. With grants to promote the community health workforce, doulas will continue to promote positive health behaviors in pregnant women and improve the lives of families nationwide."