

Community Health Worker Project The Empowerment Center (TEC)

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

According to a 2016 study by the United States Health Resources & Services Administration, there is a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals with an expected shortfall of 10,000 therapists by 2025. This alarming statistic is caused by two issues: a barrier to securing licensure for degree-holding clinicians and a lack of opportunities for individuals without advanced degrees to enter the mental health field. In addition, a 2022 study by the California Healthcare Foundation, the Inland Empire has the lowest state average of licensed mental health professionals, while the region demonstrates the highest amount of youth and families that are not being treated for mental health concerns.

The Empowerment Center (TEC) is providing a solution to the shortage of mental health professionals in the Inland Empire by training a frontline army of mental health professionals and mental health-focused community health workers from under-resourced communities to provide upward mobility and meet the demand for mental health supports statewide.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Engage workers, community members, employers, and industry stakeholders in a regional comprehensive assessment of the workforce needs to inform a workforce development plan for the Mental Health professional and the Community Health Worker.
- Establish a regional workforce Advisory Council to expand access for disadvantaged workers to high-road careers in mental health, education, healthcare, and community-based organizations.
- Implement a comprehensive curriculum to train and upskill entry-level workers and incumbent workers to become Mental Health-focused Community Health Workers.
- Create a pathway for Mental Health Trainees and Clinical Interns to become licensed mental health professionals and receive workforce development training.

KEY PARTNERS

- Temecula Valley Unified School District
 - California Community Health Worker Community of Practice (CCHWCP)
 - Black Equity Initiative
 - JustListenED
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - Rialto Unified School District
 - California Department of Rehabilitation
 - San Bernardino Valley College
 - Mt. San Jacinto Community College
 - Youth Action Project (YAP)
 - Loma Linda University Health
 - Riverside County Workforce Development Board
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