



## Project ECHO Community Health Worker (CHW) Specialist Training Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program

Prevention of child abuse needs to begin early, and data show that early intervention to help support and strengthen families and enhance parenting skills, as well as identifying risk factors of child abuse and neglect, can have a positive impact on outcomes for children. This exciting new training for CHWs will provide opportunities for skill-building in early childhood intervention while recognizing both strengths and risks that exist within families. As trusted members of the communities they serve, CHWs are uniquely positioned to engage communities and families to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Participating in this training will enhance the learner's existing skills and abilities and provide new tools to help families apply positive approaches to parenting.

### As the result of this training, CHWs will:

1. Develop strategies to serve as 'force multipliers' by working to develop community partnerships to support optimal childhood development, empower families and reduce rates of child abuse and neglect.
2. Develop local solutions to help protect children and to improve outcomes for health and wellness; build upon the cultural and community strategies that CHWs already use to serve the people of their communities.
3. Learn to strengthen the capabilities of adults involved in the lives of children by practicing a strengths-based approach that will support pregnant women and parenting families. Specific interventions will address anger and stress management, improved communication and responsiveness to infants and children, and education about how to ensure optimal infant brain development.
4. Develop strong advocacy skills in order to assist families to identify needs and set out to address those needs by making best use of all resources available.

### CHW Training through Project ECHO – Three Phases



#### Phase 1

#### Coming Together and Skill Building

This four day, face-to face training will focus on:

Practical education and communication skill-building

Team-building and skills development activities with an emphasis on the impact of social determinants of health and adverse childhood experiences

Pre- and post-testing to assess quality of learning



#### Phase 2

#### Community of Practice

Training includes sixteen weekly teleconference sessions led by Project ECHO and community specialists.  
Sessions include:

“Case presentations” of specific family situations that CHWs encounter with feedback and coaching provided by community experts

Informational presentations on child abuse and neglect prevention



#### Phase 3

#### Graduation

Graduation is a final opportunity for training participants to meet face-to-face, participating in skills testing and a graduation ceremony

Family and community members are invited to participate in celebrating this accomplishment

Clinical and written evaluations are conducted



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