

Potential Career Pathways for Community Health & Social Sciences (CHASS)

CHASS uses various tools to identify and address social determinants of community health. These skills include community engagement, program planning, strategic communication, as well as various research and evaluation techniques. This is by no means a comprehensive list of potential options, but an overview of common pathways to give you a starting point for exploration. Some potential job titles someone in the CHASS field might put these skills to use in include:

Community Health

1. **Wellness Coordinators** may be responsible for designing, planning, and implementing health promotion campaigns; planning, scheduling, and hosting wellness events; managing a fitness center; employee health education; and/or monitoring and evaluating wellness program outcomes.
2. **Community Health Workers** (also known as *promotoras* within some communities) are members of a community who are chosen by community members or organizations to advocate for residents' needs with healthcare providers and social service organizations. They may also implement wellness strategies, collect health data, and discuss health concerns with the community they serve.
3. **Community Health Educators** develop educational programs to teach communities about health promotion and disease prevention to influence behavior and thereby, well being. Community health education focuses on improving the health of a population rather than providing 1:1 care.
4. **Public Health Advisors** assist and advise public health agencies on the organization and strategy of various public health programs, ranging from financial and technical matters, to broader public health topics.

5. **Family Health Advocates** create, provide, and coordinate family services and community activities. They also educate the community on how families can become advocates for their own loved ones. People in this profession may also be known as **case managers** as they act as liaisons between family, organization staff, the government, and communities.
6. **Program Managers** develop a program's objectives and strategy, and assess how it will affect organizational goals. They also define and oversee smaller projects designed to help reach the overall program objectives
7. **Program Evaluators** systematically and scientifically assess the design, implementation, changes, or outcomes of a program. They use their results to demonstrate program effectiveness to funders, better manage resources, improve implementation and outcomes, or to document program accomplishments.

Health Communications

1. **Health Communications Specialists** focus on spreading accurate information about medical treatment, healthy lifestyle choices, and disease prevention to improve population health and well being. Individuals in this position use marketing techniques to increase health awareness.
2. **Medical Communications Managers** develop and execute data-based marketing plans to advertise safe and effective medicines and how to use them. These marketing plans are based on global health data surrounding product safety and efficacy.
3. **Public Health Journalists** spread public health information through media platforms. They report on topics that include medical issues, study results, health tips, and more. The information they report is gathered through research, interviews, and attending press conferences and external meetings. Findings may be reported online, in print, or on news stations, the radio, or podcasts. Regular travel may be required for this job.
4. **Public Health Information Officers** plan, organize, and supervise communication programs that aim to gather and share public health data. They typically advise and

consult public health institutions, government agencies, community organizations, and community members on public health issues and matters of preventative medicine. Public Health Information Officers may also promote legal public health-related mandates, health codes, and public health initiatives.

5. **Technical Medical Writers** create data-based documents that explain health care and health technology to medical students or other highly educated professionals. This work may include defining terms, writing up guidelines, or producing educational material. The work of a Technical Medical Writer may be published in scientific journals or other more broadly available platforms.

MCRSH

1. **Health Educators** in this field perform similar work to Community Health Educators (see above), but with a focus on MCRSH topics. Professionals in this field may also work more specifically with maternal and child populations, or organizations that serve these communities.
2. **Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) Researchers** conduct and manage field-based studies on MNH topics, typically in low-income or conflict-affected settings. Professionals in this line of work may work as professors, or for non-profit organizations like the International Rescue Committee.
3. **Maternal and Child Health Specialists** promote, identify, and teach social and behavioral health habits to their clients. Other job duties include promoting health of pregnant women, providing sex education and sexual reproductive health services, and managing community health services. Some skills required for this work are cultural competency, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills.
4. **Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health Advisors** provide technical and program support to ensure service delivery and translation of public health guidance into action. Other work in this field may include critically reviewing data, and gaps in policy and guidelines to ensure the development of comprehensive programs and policies.

A few places of employment where you might search for CHASS roles are large governmental agencies like the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, NYS Department of Health, or local health agencies. NGOs and nonprofits like March of Dimes, Make the Road New York, or the International Rescue Committee also offer positions in these fields, as well as educational institutions like community health centers, after school programs, and colleges and universities.

These are just some examples of what titles a professional in the CHASS field of public health might hold and who they might be employed by. For more information on the day-to-day job functions of these career options, you can do some further exploration using [ONetOnline](#). ONetOnline is a great resource for students who are beginning or transitioning careers to explore career options in detail. A helpful tip to navigate ONet might be to use the “find occupations” tool first to get a better idea of some more job titles. Next, after you have found some titles that are of your interest, you can use the “advanced search” option to see how your skills match with these options and what skills you might still need to build to pursue roles of interest.

For more detail on how to navigate ONetOnline and for information on other career exploration tools, see the Career Conversations Corner piece from the Office of Career Services newsletter published on June 16, 2021.

Interested in talking about your career options with a Career Coach?

Schedule a 1:1 Career Coaching appointment with the Office of Career Services. [Book an appointment online now!](#)