

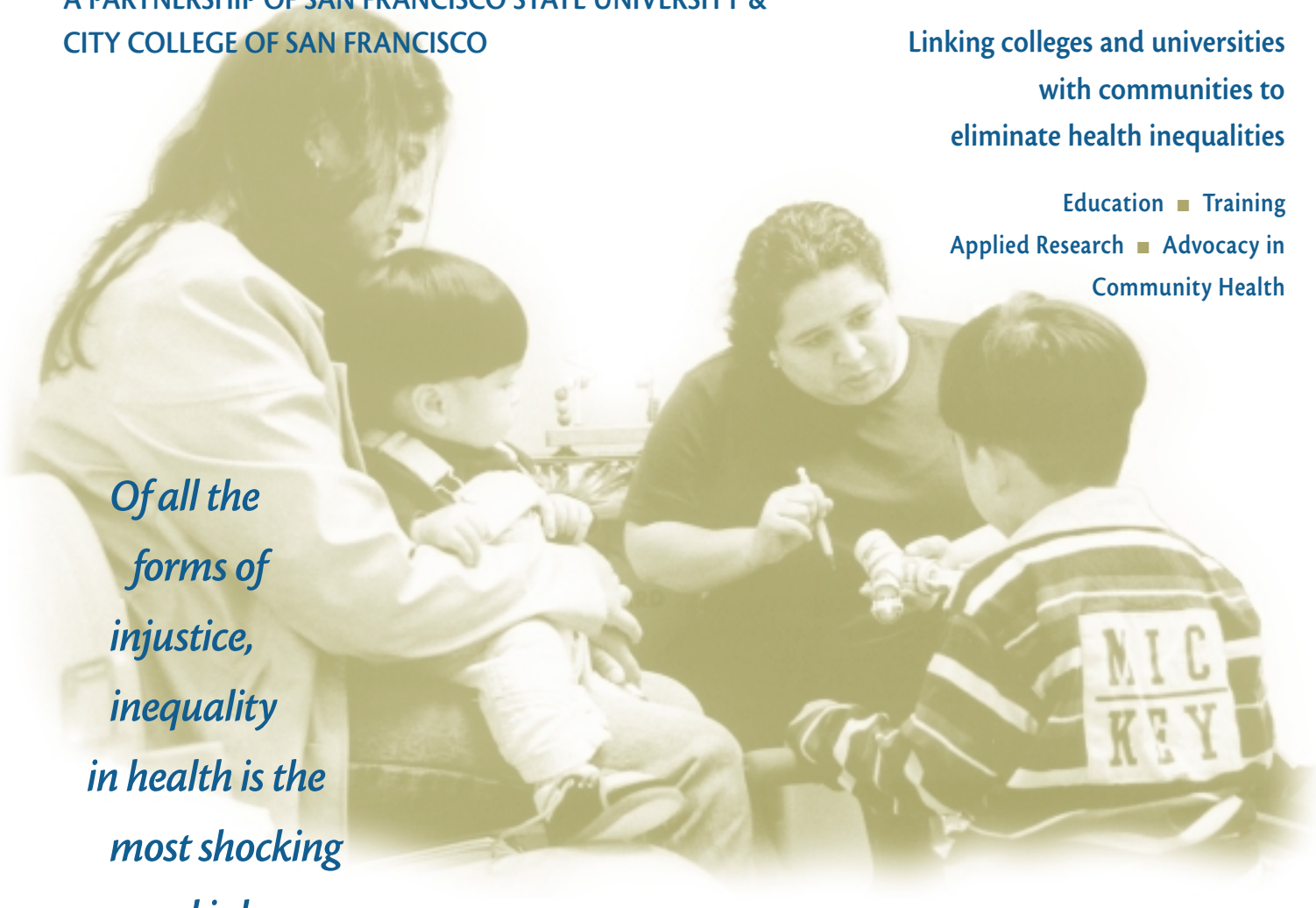
# Community Health Works

of San Francisco

A PARTNERSHIP OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY &  
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Linking colleges and universities  
with communities to  
eliminate health inequalities


Education ■ Training  
Applied Research ■ Advocacy in  
Community Health



*Of all the  
forms of  
injustice,  
inequality  
in health is the  
most shocking  
and inhumane.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**F**ounded in 1992, Community Health Works of San Francisco is a nationally recognized center for innovation in community health. We focus on public health and primary care for low-income and immigrant communities. Two intertwined goals guide our work: to eliminate health inequalities, and to diversify the public health and primary care workforce.

We are based in the California State University and Community College systems, two of the largest systems of higher education in the world. Their 131 campuses provide public higher education to every region and city in California, the most diverse state in the country. Together they prepare the great majority of health professionals from communities of color. Our home base in the state universities and community colleges holds great potential to be an engine for change in health. 

# What We Do

## INCUBATE NEW PROGRAMS

We have developed innovative educational certificates and model prevention and disease management programs in public health priority areas such as drug and alcohol addiction and asthma. We have a decade-long track record of piloting new programs and making them permanent. This brings long-term benefits to students, community members, and health providers.



## NURTURE FUTURE LEADERS

Our programs cultivate a diverse new generation of program and policy leaders, community leaders, and faculty in community health.

In addition to skills training, we believe that all health professionals need a broad understanding of health disparities and the crisis facing the US health system.

This is the basis for a lifelong commitment to community service and advocacy for system change, an ethic at the foundation of all our programs.

## DISSEMINATION HUB

Through publications, video teleconferences, distance learning, train-the-trainer sessions, and networking, we share


promising new programs with state and national audiences. For example, we worked with Kaiser Permanente and the Regional Health Occupations Resource Centers to host a videoconference on health care interpreters for community colleges.

We also worked with partners nationally to develop the **YES WE CAN Toolkit** for prevention-oriented team care of children's asthma.

## BRIDGE COMMUNITIES AND RESEARCHERS

Community Health Works serves as a two-way bridge between communities and researchers. Working side by side with community partners we translate research advances into practical methods that communities can put to immediate use.

## CATALYZE PARTNERSHIPS

Our projects are built on collaborations with community-based organizations, public health departments, employers, and organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, the California Conference of Public Health Officers, and Kaiser Permanente. 



*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services....*



*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*



# Our Goals


## ELIMINATE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

“Health disparities” are inequalities in health associated with ethnicity/race, gender, poverty, geography, occupation, housing status, or sexual orientation. These disparities are preventable.

We work to improve access to quality healthcare and to address the unequal conditions that are the root causes of health inequality.

## INCREASE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE

People of color are the new majority in California and constitute 30% of the population of the US. One-fourth to one-third of Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander households in California are linguistically isolated. Yet the leadership and faculty of the health workforce remain largely monolingual and white.

We have a longstanding commitment to diversifying the public and private health workforce at all levels. Four out of five graduates of our CHW Certificate have been low-income people of color. Virtually all graduates work in medically underserved communities. Our Welcome Back program offers leadership and policy studies to internationally trained health professionals. 



# Accomplishments



## 1992–PRESENT

- ❑ **Community Health Worker Certificate**, the first college credit CHW program in the US. Combines performance based and popular education approaches.
- ❑ State and national dissemination of the CHW Certificate.
- ❑ **The Health Train** university transfer program. Encourages transfer from community college to California State University.
- ❑ **Welcome Back: International Health Worker Assistance Center**. Reintegrates internationally prepared health professionals back into the health workforce, and links them with immigrant communities in need of linguistically and culturally competent health professionals.
- ❑ **YES WE CAN (YWC)**: A medical/social team model for chronic disease management. Relies on community health workers to foster prevention-oriented self management.
- ❑ **Drug and Alcohol Studies Certificate**, geared to the assets and needs of urban low-income communities. A public health approach to addiction.
- ❑ **San Francisco Bay Area Regional Health Occupations Resource Center (RHORC)**. Fosters quality education and services in community colleges that develop the health workforce.
- ❑ **Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA)**. State coordinating office of an initiative to reduce environmental causes of asthma in children, on behalf of The California Endowment.
- ❑ Received three national and two state awards for innovation.
- ❑ Sister programs: **HIV/STD Prevention Education Certificate; Health Care Interpreter Certificate; Urban Health MPH Program.**



## Home Institutions



San Francisco State University

Department of Health Education



Health Science Department

## OFFICES

San Francisco State University (*Administrative Office*)

City College of San Francisco, Ocean Campus (*Certificate Programs*)

City College of San Francisco, John Adams Campus (*Welcome Back*)

East Bay Office in Berkeley (*Training and Publications*)

California State Building, Oakland (*CAFA*)

## THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

- The California Endowment
- The US Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)
- California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office, Educational Services and Economic Development Network (Ed>Net)
- Kaiser Permanente
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- The Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act
- The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)
- Blue Cross of California Medi-Cal Program

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