

Test, Trace, and Space: Investing in a Health Workforce to Prevent Pandemic Spread

Lauren Underwood
U.S. Representative (IL-14)

Amanda Dennison
Deputy Executive Director
for Programs
National Coalition of STD
Directors

Kelly Murphy
Director of Early Childhood
and Maternal Health
Families USA

Agenda

- **Welcome:** Lauren Rosenbaum, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Families USA
- **Introduction:** Frederick Isasi, Executive Director, Families USA
- **Federal Efforts to Expand our Health Workforce:** U.S. Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
- **Q&A for Rep. Underwood**
- **COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing Best Practices:** Amanda Dennison, Deputy Executive Director for Programs, National Coalition of STD Directors
- **Contact Tracing and Community Health Workers:** Kelly Murphy, Director of Early Childhood and Maternal Health, Families USA
- **Tools to Support Action in Your State**
- **Q&A**



Lauren Underwood

U.S. Representative
IL-14

@RepUnderwood

Amanda Dennison

Deputy Executive Director for Programs
National Coalition of STD Directors



@NCSDDC

Goals

- History of contact tracing and disease intervention specialists
- Importance for COVID-19 response, including communities most impacted
- Public Health Workforce Needs-- Federal Advocacy
- Successes
- Resources

History of Contact Tracing

- First outlined in the late 1930s as key public health strategy to fight syphilis
- Requires training, supervision, and access to social and medical support for patients and contacts
- Community health workers: part of the communities they serve
- Contact tracing has been adapted for disease outbreaks, and now COVID-19

Importance of Training

- Vital to COVID-19 response
- Workforce expansion is desperately needed
- NCSD and ASTHO Training: [Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)
- Those with little or no public health background to work as entry-level contact tracers
- Additional modules planned

Public Health Workforce Needs

- Endorsed The Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020
- \$7.6 billion for a robust contact tracing workforce, three-tiered approach:
 - 100,000 Contact Tracers
 - 10,000 Disease Intervention Specialist Supervisors
 - 1,600 Epidemiologists
 - Supported by APHL, ASTHO, CSTE, NACCHO, NCSD

Success of Past Outbreaks

- Indiana HIV/Hepatitis Outbreak, 2015
- Multi-state Hepatitis A outbreaks
- Ebola response
- Zika response

Key Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing-resources.html>
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)/National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) Contact Tracer training: <https://learn.astho.org/>
- National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD): www.ncsddc.org/resource/covid-command-center-for-std-programs/
- Vital Strategies Contact Tracing Playbook: <https://contacttracingplaybook.resolvetosavelives.org/>
- COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Needs: <https://www.ncsddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Joint-Public-Health-Contact-Tracing-Workforce-Request-4.30.20-FINAL.pdf>

Amanda Dennison

Deputy Executive Director for Programs
National Coalition of STD Directors



adennison@ncsddc.org
@NCSDDC
ncsddc.org

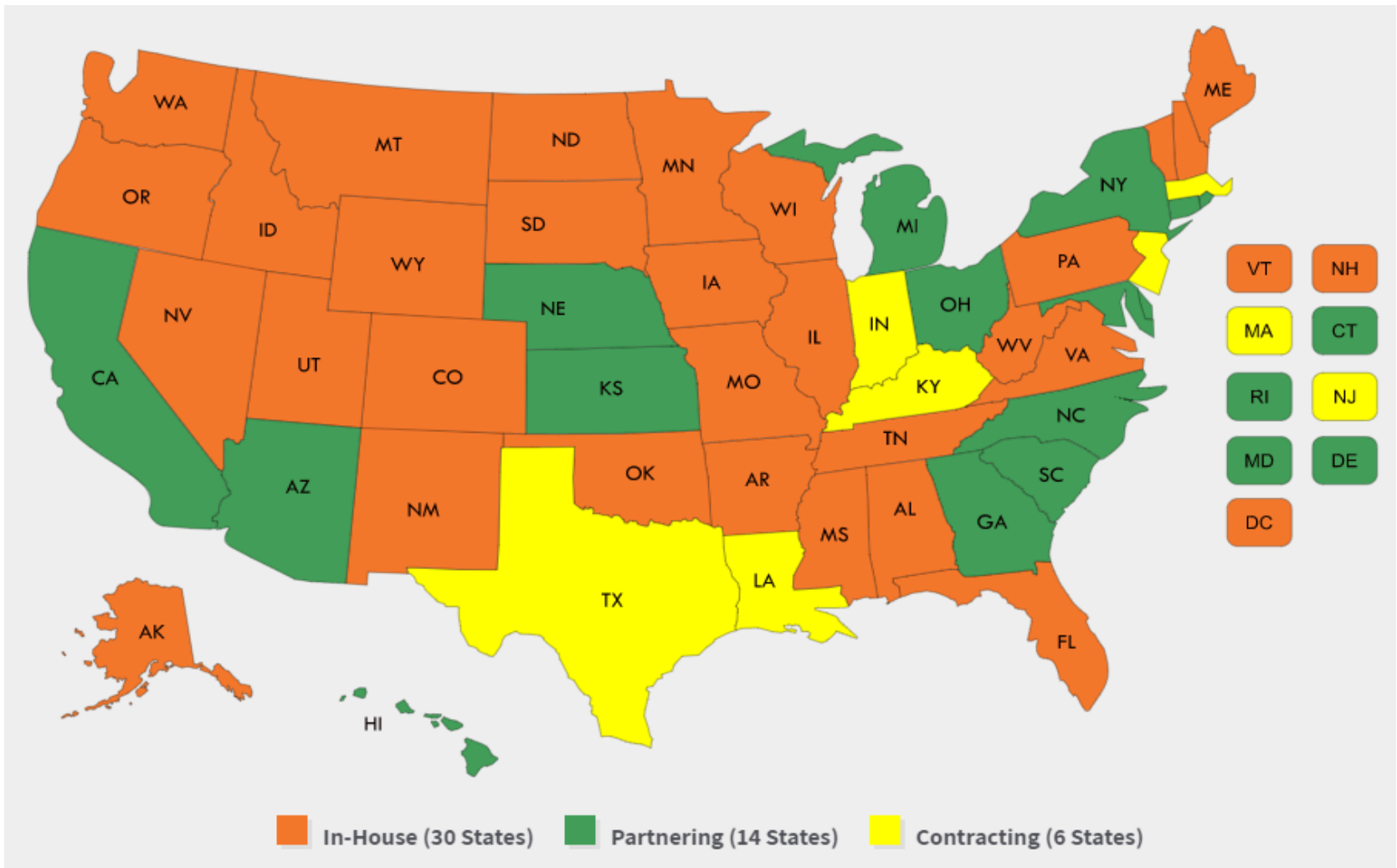
Kelly Murphy

Director,
Early Childhood and Maternal Health
Families USA



@FamiliesUSA

Contact Tracing Efforts in States



Steps to Safely Reopen

Test

Case Investigation

Contact Trace

Quarantine/Isolate

Why is Contact Tracing Important?

- Current estimates show that individuals with COVID-19 are likely to spread it to 2-3 other people and contact tracing can help stem spread.
- CDC recommends that contact tracers have “excellent and sensitive interpersonal, cultural sensitivity, and interviewing skills such that they can build and maintain trust with patients and contacts.”
- Fortunately, there is already an existing workforce in all states that come directly from the communities they serve and fulfill these requirements: community health workers (CHWs).

Many CHWs are already experienced members of the healthcare team. We have proven skills in data collection, knowledge of health privacy laws, and proficiency in health education and outreach, problem solving and more. It makes sense to utilize CHWs as contact tracers. We have proven to be an important part of the public health system. It is important to train the workforce already in place -- and not duplicate efforts or workforces.

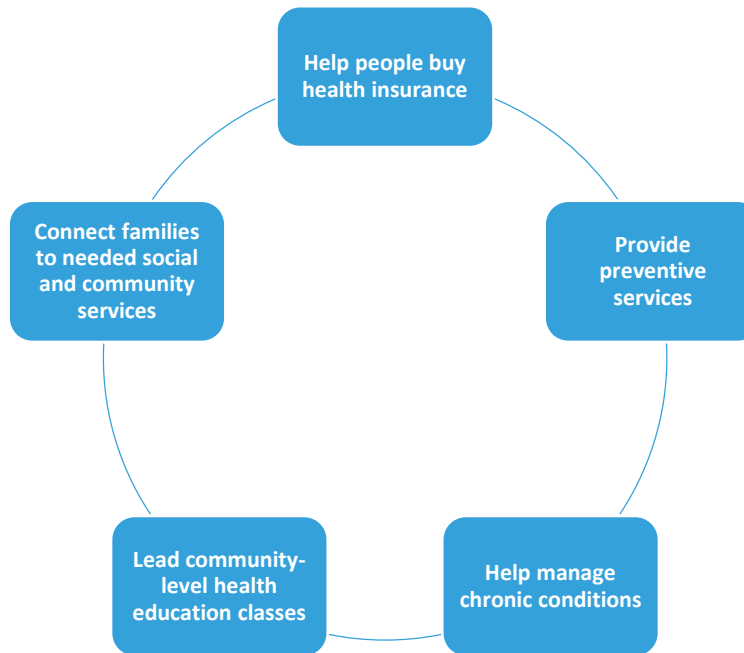
Adrianne Serrano Proeller,
Community Health Worker,
Morehouse School of Medicine
Prevention Research Center



Who are CHWs?

- **What is a Community Health Worker (CHW)?**
 - CHWs vary by state, but it is an umbrella term for many positions:
 - *Promotores*
 - Community Health Representatives
 - Peer educators
 - CHWs work in clinics, people's homes, schools, and other community settings.

How are CHWs Poised to Help?



CHWs have existing relationships with both individuals and health care systems in the community

CHWs understand the community culture

CHWs know about existing social supports needed to help people through this pandemic

CHWs can Mitigate Health Disparities

- COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on communities of color and in particular Black Americans, who account for about 24% of COVID-19 deaths but make up only about 13% of the U.S. population.
- Given their proven effectiveness working within underserved communities to address the social and structural drivers of health inequities, CHWs should be included in states' efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, particularly in contact tracing.

Recommendations for States

States should include CHWs in targeted, community-based contact tracing initiatives.

States should dedicate new and existing funding to include CHWs in their contact tracing efforts.

States should both tap into the existing CHW workforce and certify, train, and hire new CHWs for contact tracing.

States should engage community-based organizations (CBOs), state and local CHW networks and associations, and county health departments in developing a contact tracing workforce that includes CHWs.

States should hire and recruit CHWs for roles beyond contact tracing to ensure that COVID-19 patients' additional health and social needs are met.

Tools to Support Action in Your State

- **Resources from Families USA**
 - [Comprehensive COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#)
 - Forthcoming Paper: Contact Tracing and Community Health Workers (June 2020)
- **Resources from the National Coalition of STD Directors**
 - [COVID-19 Command Center for STD Programs](#)
 - [Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)
- **Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020**
 - [Bill Text](#)
 - [Press Release](#)
- **Let us know how we can best support you in the post-webinar survey!**

Questions?



Next Webinar

Thursday, June 18, 2 p.m. ET

Addressing the Fiscal Crisis in Communities Affected by COVID-19

[Register here](#)



Contact

Info@familiesusa.org

www.familiesusa.org

[@FamiliesUSA](https://www.instagram.com/FamiliesUSA)



FamiliesUSA.org