

HEALTH & SAFETY CODE
CHAPTER 48. TRAINING AND REGULATION OF PROMOTORAS AND COMMUNITY
HEALTH WORKERS

Sec. 48.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Compensation" includes receiving payment or receiving reimbursement for expenses.

(2) "Promotora" or "community health worker" means a person who, with or without compensation, provides a liaison between health care providers and patients through activities that may include activities such as assisting in case conferences, providing patient education, making referrals to health and social services, conducting needs assessments, distributing surveys to identify barriers to health care delivery, making home visits, and providing bilingual language services.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 857, Sec. 2.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Renumbered from Sec. 46.001 and amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 946, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001 and Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 21.001(72), eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 48.002. PROMOTORA AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish and operate a program designed to train and educate persons who act as promotoras or community health workers. In establishing the training program, the department, to the extent possible, shall consider the report and any findings of and implement any applicable recommendations of the Promotora Program Development Committee.

(b) Participation in a training and education program established under this section is voluntary for a promotora or community health worker who provides services without receiving any compensation and mandatory for a promotora or community health worker who provides services for compensation. The board may adopt rules to exempt a promotora or community health worker from mandatory training who has served for three or more years or who has 1,000 or more hours of experience.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 857, Sec. 2.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Renumbered from Sec. 46.002 and amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 946, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001 and Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 21.001(72), eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 48.003. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR PROMOTORAS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS. (a) The department shall establish and operate a certification program for persons who act as promotoras or community health workers. In establishing the program, the board shall adopt rules that provide minimum standards and guidelines, including participation in the training and education program under Section 48.002, for issuance of a certificate to a person under this section. In adopting the minimum standards and guidelines, the board shall consider the report and any findings of and adopt any applicable recommendations of the Promotora Program Development Committee.

(b) Receipt of a certificate issued under this section may not be a requirement for a person to act as a promotora or community health worker without receiving any compensation and is a requirement for a person to act as a promotora or community health worker for compensation.

(c) The Health and Human Services Commission shall require health and human services agencies to use certified promotoras to the extent possible in health outreach and education programs for recipients of medical assistance under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 857, Sec. 2.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 729, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001. Renumbered from Sec. 46.003 and amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 946, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 21.001(72) and 21.002(8), eff. Sept. 1, 2001.