Pathway B: Violence Interrupter and Credible Messenger CHW

Pathway handbook

Who this pathway is for

Violence interrupters, outreach workers and credible messengers, 18 or older, who pass the readiness gates.

What every pathway shares

The same Board-approved core: 110 classroom hours online, 12 lab hours in person, and 130 clinical hours in a community setting. Graduates who meet Ohio's requirements apply for the Ohio CHW certificate.

Ohio requirements for the certificate

1. Be 18 or older with a high school diploma or the equivalent (ORC 4723.84).
2. Complete this Board-approved program; the program sends the Board written notice of completion and competence.
3. Apply to the Ohio Board of Nursing with the $35 fee and request a BCI criminal records check (OAC 4723-26-02).
4. Complete the application within one year of the Board receiving it, or it is void and the fee is lost.
5. Renew every two years with 15 hours of continuing education, including 1 hour on Chapter 4723 and Board rules and 1 hour on professional boundaries (OAC 4723-26-05).

What you complete

Part	Hours	Credential
State core (CHW 101 to 104, labs, CHW 190 practicum)	110 + 12 lab + 130 clinical	Ohio CHW certificate
Violence interruption specialty (VI 201 to 206)	96	CHANGE Violence Interruption and Credible Messenger credential
Supervised field hours (the first 130 are the core practicum)	480 total	Same specialty credential

Specialty courses

Course	Hours	Modules	Domains
VI 201 Violence as a Public Health Problem	16	VI201.1 (in development) VI201.2 (in development)	F1, F2
VI 202 Detection, Mediation and De-escalation	24	VI202.1 (in development) VI202.2 (in development)	F3

Course	Hours	Modules	Domains
VI 203 Credible Messenger Mentoring and Behavior Change	16	VI203.1 (in development) VI203.2 (in development)	F4
VI 204 Trauma, Healing and Worker Wellness	16	VI204.1 (in development) VI204.2 (in development)	F5, F6
VI 205 Case Management, Systems and Role Clarity	12	VI205.1 (in development) VI205.2 (in development)	F7, F8
VI 206 Data, Digital Interruption and Professionalism	12	VI206.1 (in development) VI206.2 (in development)	F9, F10, F11

The Ten Commandments of Violence Interruption belong to LaRon Douglas Sr. and RDGIP. Where the program uses them, RDGIP teaches them under a written license, in a restricted area of the LMS. The Composite Risk System and conflict mapping method belong to Dr. Gina Weisblat; learners are taught how to read and use risk tiers and conflict maps, not the formulas behind them. The digital violence interrupter approach was created by LaRon Douglas and is credited to him.

Field hours

Phase	Hours	Counts toward
Shadow	80	First 80 of the 130-hour state practicum
Assisted (mentor within intervention distance)	80	Last 50 of the state practicum, then specialty
Supported (mentor in the same corridor)	160	Specialty
Independent with check-ins	160	Specialty

During the first 130 hours, each student also carries a small CHW caseload (intake, screening, referral, health education) across the lifespan, so the state practicum is not street outreach alone.

Design commitments

- Staff training stays separate from participant programming such as the RDGIP ten-week program.
- Field hours are tracked apart from classroom hours; no credential is awarded on seat time.
- Law enforcement independence: violence interrupters are not informants.
- RDGIP's name appears on materials or credentials only by written agreement made in advance.
- Renewal of the specialty credential: 12 continuing education hours every two years and an annual mentor attestation.

Form B-1: Readiness gates

Completed before enrollment. Private. Kept in a secured file.

Gate	What is checked	Outcome	Reviewer initials
R1. Certificate eligibility	Private conversation about any conviction on the Board's directly related list (ORC 4723.092, 9.79); Board inquiry if needed	☐ Eligible now ☐ Specialty only for now ☐ Board inquiry	
R2. Trauma and wellness readiness	Structured interview with a behavioral health professional	☐ Ready ☐ Ready with supports ☐ Not yet	
R3. Affiliations and territory	Current affiliations; named exclusion zone for field assignments	Exclusion zone: _____	
R4. Mentor match	Named field mentor who has done the work	Mentor: _____	

Applicant signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Program administrator signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Form B-2: Field hours log

Student: _____ Mentor: _____ Phase: _____

Date	Hours	Location type (no addresses)	Activities	Mentor initials

Form B-3: Specialty competency checklist

#	Competency	S / N	Mentor initials and date
1	Explains violence as a public health problem and the limits of the VI role		
2	Reads a risk tier and conflict map and uses them to prioritize outreach		
3	Recognizes signs of a building conflict and reports through team protocol		
4	Mediates a conflict scenario using de-escalation steps (three runs: attempt, debrief, re-run)		
5	Responds safely at a scene or hospital following protocol		
6	Builds a mentoring relationship with clear boundaries		
7	Uses motivational interviewing with a high-risk participant		
8	Recognizes trauma and crisis and makes a warm handoff		
9	Has a written personal wellness plan and uses supervision		
10	Writes a life plan and case notes with a participant		
11	Explains law enforcement independence and the subpoena protocol		
12	Documents contacts accurately and protects participant data		
13	Recognizes online escalation and follows monitoring ethics		

Field mentor signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Program administrator signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Orientation modules

Module	Title
ORIENT.1	(in development)
190.1	(in development)

Core modules

Module	Course	Title	Hours
101.1	CHW 101	Who We Are: The Community Health Worker	4
101.2	CHW 101	Ethics, Boundaries and Confidentiality	4
101.3	CHW 101	(in development)	0
101.4	CHW 101	(in development)	0
101.5	CHW 101	(in development)	0
101.6	CHW 101	(in development)	0
102.1	CHW 102	Cultural Humility and Bias	4
102.2	CHW 102	(in development)	0
102.3	CHW 102	(in development)	0
102.4	CHW 102	(in development)	0
102.5	CHW 102	(in development)	0
102.6	CHW 102	(in development)	0
102.7	CHW 102	(in development)	0
103.1	CHW 103	Body Basics: Anatomy, Physiology and Medical Terms	6
103.2	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.3	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.4	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.5	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.6	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.7	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.8	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.9	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.10	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.11	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.12	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.13	CHW 103	(in development)	0
103.14	CHW 103	(in development)	0
104.1	CHW 104	Care Coordination and Case Management	5
104.2	CHW 104	(in development)	0
104.3	CHW 104	(in development)	0

Module	Course	Title	Hours
104.4	CHW 104	Office and Digital Skills	3
104.5	CHW 104	(in development)	0
104.6	CHW 104	(in development)	0
190.1	CHW 190	(in development)	0

Specialty modules

Module	Course	Title
VI201.1		(in development)
VI201.2		(in development)
VI202.1		(in development)
VI202.2		(in development)
VI203.1		(in development)
VI203.2		(in development)
VI204.1		(in development)
VI204.2		(in development)
VI205.1		(in development)
VI205.2		(in development)
VI206.1		(in development)
VI206.2		(in development)

Program documents that apply to you

- Student Handbook (program/09)
- Program Policies (program/04)
- Practicum Handbook and Forms (program/06)
- Core Competency Checklist (program/05)
- Program Evaluation Forms (program/10)

Sources

OAC 4723-26-13, Standard curriculum for CHW training programs (eff. Feb 1, 2025)

OAC 4723-26-12, Standards for CHW training programs (eff. Feb 1, 2025)

OAC 4723-26-02, CHW certification

OAC 4723-26-03, Certification by endorsement (eff. Feb 1, 2025)

OAC 4723-26-05, Continuing education (eff. Feb 1, 2025)

OAC Chapter 4723-26 (delegation and supervision rules 4723-26-06 to 26-09)

ORC 4723.84, CHW certificate qualifications

ORC 4723.092, Criminal convictions (eff. Dec 18, 2025)

ORC 9.79, Licensing and criminal records (eff. Mar 20, 2026)

Ohio Board of Nursing, CHW Training Program Approval Application

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Industry-Recognized Credentials: Health