



Common Thread Consulting is proud to partner with the Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB) to build a dynamic and well-supported workforce of Traditional Health Workers (THWs). This initiative is designed to address critical community needs by equipping THWs with the skills and resources necessary to provide comprehensive services, including mental and behavioral health support, addiction recovery, resource navigation, and birth care for priority populations in Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties.

The program goes beyond basic training to create a pathway for long-term success. Participants engage in robust training, continuing education, and professional development opportunities, while gaining hands-on work experience to strengthen their skills. Additionally, the program explores innovative approaches such as billing pilots to support the integration of THWs into sustainable care models.

At the heart of the program are three foundational pillars: barrier removal, to ensure equitable access to training and work opportunities; advisor support, to guide and mentor THWs as they grow in their roles; and sustainability, to create a lasting impact for individuals and communities. Through this collaborative effort, we are empowering a workforce that will transform lives and elevate health outcomes across the region.



THW Training Program

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board's program will develop a robust group of Traditional Health Workers to provide mental health, behavioral health, addiction recovery, resources and birth care support for priority populations to improve individual and community health in Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties. The program runs through June 2025.

Winter 2025 Newsletter

BY THE NUMBERS:

Logistics	2—OHA HOWTO Grant Progress Reports submitted 2—THW Advisors supporting trainees through certification and beyond	Partners	3—Counties represented by partners 56—Agencies or tribes represented in planning for the project 110—THW Training Program Partners
Trainers	7—Training Partners providing sessions to our cohorts in Peer Support Specialist Substance Use Disorder (PSS-SUD), Peer Support Specialist-Mental Health (PSS-MH), Youth Support Specialist (PSS-YSS), Doula, and Community Health Worker (CHW)	Trainees	83—Engaged in training 62—Completed training and READY TO WORK! 25—Enrolled in future training 32—THWs certified 14—Applications in process to OHA 5—Completed Work Experience
PSS-SUD	20—Goal 19—Completers 7—App to OHA 11—OHA Certified	PSS-MH	20—Goal 20—Completers 3—App to OHA 12—OHA Certified
PSS-YSS	20—Goal 11—Completers 2—App to OHA 7—OHA Certified	Doula	9—Goal 6—Completers 1—OHA Certified— <i>must attend three births to be certified</i>
CHW	20—Goal 6—Completers 2—App to OHA	End of Program	June 30, 2025

SOWIB hosts quarterly THW Partners meetings with our 100+ partners to discuss progress and get input for strategies and processes. The Year-3 Design Meeting was held in August with 21 people in attendance. The following is a summary of the discussion which was guided by survey questions asked prior to the meeting.

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board
Traditional Health Worker Integration and Utilization Program
 Training Partners Quarterly Meeting | August 14 | 10:00 -11:30 am

Agenda Item	Notes
Last Year of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
Supervision Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Potential Future Specialities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
Organizational Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
Program Strengths and Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

Thank you to our Peer Support Specialist Training Partners



Thank you to our CHW Training Partners



Throughout this program it became apparent that many organizations and community members are unaware of the services provided by THWs. A THW Awareness Campaign was launched to spread the word about what they do and how they help improve health outcomes. Below is a snippet of the flyer created.

WHY do THWs make a difference?

THWs offer support and services for individuals so they may lead a more self-directed life and gain control over their own well-being. THWs have a valuable role in the interconnection of physical and mental health.



CHWs are frontline workers who are trusted members of the community and help individuals in communities understand how to stay healthy and access healthcare.


Birth Doulas provide personal and nonmedical support to women and families throughout a pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum experience.

PSSs, through their own relatable lived experience, offer emotional support, advocacy, education on personal growth and help in navigating systems and services.

HOW can THWs help your community?

- Improve overall health
- Promote health equity
- Improve engagement and satisfaction with services and supports
- Improve quality of life for community members
- Address health disparities
- Allow workers to work at the top of their licensure

Doulas must attend 3 births and post-birth visits to qualify for OHA certification as a THW. To date, one of our trainees has accomplished this. To help generate connections for doulas to attend births, SOWIB is highlighting the Doula trainees' journeys on SOWIB's website and social media.




Southwestern Oregon
SOWIB
Workforce Investment Board

Doula Spotlight

Honoring SOWIB's recently Certified Traditional Health Workers (THW)

Chaukae Donley, a seasoned Birth Doula, brings over two decades of experience supporting families during the birthing process. Now, with certification from OHA and Doula Training Center, Chaukae continues to help families navigate the joys and challenges of pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

Chaukae's services are often covered by insurance, including the Oregon Health Plan, making it accessible for more families to receive the support they deserve. Contact [SOWIB](#) today to learn more about how Chaukae can support your journey!



CHAUKAE DONLEY
Certified Birth Doula



Learn More

*"It's an honor to support families and help them feel confident and empowered on their birthing journey. I'm here to offer emotional, physical, and informational support."
- Chaukae Donley, Certified Birth Doula*

Thank you to our Doula Training Partners



Doula Training Center

SOWIB THW TRAINING PROGRAM

OHA's "HOWTO" Grant will develop a robust group of THWs to provide behavioral health, mental health, addiction recovery, and birth care support for marginalized populations to improve individual and community health in Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties.

**Peer Support Specialist for Adult Addictions (PSS)
TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKER (THW)**

**TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKER
FREE TRAINING**

Peer Recovery Solutions - Certified Recovery Mentor (CRM)

- Training designed for individuals with lived experience in addiction recovery
- Learn how to effectively support others seeking recovery from addiction
- Approved by OHA for Adult Addictions Peer Support Specialist (PSS)
- SOWIB scholarships are available

FREE THW TRAINING

Certified Recovery Mentor (CRM)
Peer Recovery Solutions
June 6 - 9 | 8 AM - 5 PM
Live Instruction - Zoom

SCAN QR CODE
or visit <https://lead.me/bdHAe2>
TO REGISTER

AVAILABLE TO COOS, CURRY, AND DOUGLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS

Virtual - Live Instruction
<https://lead.me/bdHAe2>
thw@sowib.org

Southwestern Oregon
SOWIB
Workforce Investment Board
FUNDING MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH OHA HOWTO GRANT

**Youth Peer Support Specialist (PSS)
TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKER (THW)**

**TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKER
FREE TRAINING**

Youth ERA - PEER Support Plus

- Comprehensive 7-day (40-hour) program
- Focused on the needs of youth and young adult peer support providers (Ages 18-33)
- Emphasis on the value of trainee's lived experiences and promotes sharing
- SOWIB Scholarships Available

SCAN QR CODE
or visit <https://lead.me/bdHAe2>
TO REGISTER

FREE THW TRAINING

PEER SUPPORT PLUS
Register now for Summer 2023
Youth ERA - Zoom
<https://lead.me/bdHAe2>
thw@sowib.org

COOS, CURRY, AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES
FUNDING MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH OHA HOWTO GRANT

BY THE NUMBERS

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board has laid a path for Traditional Health Worker success. Statistics to date:

Logistics

- 1** - OHA HOWTO **Grant Progress Report** submitted
- 2** - **Advisors** Contracted, oriented, and trained in Reflective Supervision

Partners

- 3** - Counties represented by **partners**
- 25** - **Advisory Committee** members
- 34** - **Agencies** represented in planning for the program
- 74** - **THW Training Program Partners**

Trainees

- 1** - **Peer Support Specialist-Mental Health** training in May/June
- 1** - **Youth Support Specialist** training session May 30 - June 7
- 5** - **Doula** cohort members currently in training
- 15** - **Peer Support Specialist-Substance Use Disorder** Trainees registered to train in June
- 63** - **Interest Forms** completed by potential Trainees across all three counties and all specialties

TRAINING PARTNERS

Doula Training Center: Offered online and in-person, this 120 hour course covers everything from supporting various types of births, infant feeding methods, business tools, Doulas' self-maintenance, BLS/CPR, and other required trainings to meet the THW state registry.

<https://www.doulatrainingcenter.org/trainings>

Youth Era: This virtual training offers one-on-one peer support provides young adults with help, advice, guidance, and support from someone who has been where they are. Our Youth Peer Support Specialists (YPSS) have lived experience in youth-serving systems (Mental Health, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, etc.) and have been trained to support transition-aged young adults. <https://www.youthera.org/trainings>

Peer Recovery Solutions: This virtual training includes diverse professionals using their personal and professional expertise to improve a variety of recovery support services.

<https://peerrecoveryolutions.com/crm-training/>

Folk Time: This virtual training is dedicated to connecting individuals with shared lived experiences through Intentional Peer Support in a culture of inclusiveness. <https://folktime.org/trainings/ips-or-hub/>



Progress

IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Fall of 2022 saw over 60 partners convening to lay the foundation for a successful launch of the SOWIB THW Integration & Utilization grant. This grant is a collaboration between SOWIB and the three CCOs serving Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties, and many additional partners who are eager to see improved health for marginalized populations.

The idea for the program is to provide support for people who are passionate about working as THWs in their communities while simultaneously removing any barriers to being able to take on these roles. The third leg of the program is to determine a solid financial model to sustain the THW positions within organizations.

We are fortunate to have two highly qualified Advisors working to support the trainees through mentoring, coaching, professional development, and logistical support. We believe their leadership will result in trainees moving into their new professions with the confidence and skills to succeed.

There are training programs happening now and throughout the next few months for Doulas, PSS-SUD, PSS-MH, and YSS. We'll be scheduling the CHW training sessions when Umpqua Community College has their program up and running in 2024. Additional braided funding has been applied to some of the cohorts needing extra financial assistance to attend in-person sessions (we see you and support you, Doulas!)