



FAQs about the PREFER CHW Training Program

About the Program

1. What does PREFER stand for?

PREFER stands for: PaRtnErIng to build understanding oF gEnomics Responsibly. This is the title of the training, as well as the larger grant title that is funded through the National Human Genome Research Institute (R25HG013479).

2. What is the PREFER CHW Training Program?

It is a training program designed to equip Community Health Workers (CHWs) with the knowledge and skills to engage in genomics research and education.

3. Who can participate in the program?

CHWs from around the country are eligible to participate, with a special focus on recruiting CHWs in the Southeast United States. We are seeking to train up to 150 CHWs in the next year.

4. What is the goal of the program?

The program aims to address the lack of CHWs with genomics competencies, diversify the genomics research workforce, and improve representation of diverse populations in genomics research.

5. I'm a CHW, I am not a clinician. What does genetics or genomics have to do with me? Did you know there are nearly 2 million people in the US who are at increased risk for poor health because their genes or family history make them more vulnerable to developing certain cancers or heart diseases? Early detection and intervention could save many of these people's lives, if they knew they were at greater risk. Understanding genetics, genetic testing, and resources available could help CHWs support families at higher risk get the preventive care they need before they get sick.

6. How is this course relevant to CHWs?

The course equips CHWs with essential genomics knowledge and skills to educate and support their communities, bridging the gap between complex genetic information and public health needs. It also enhances their role in advancing health equity and provides opportunities for professional growth in a rapidly evolving field.

7. Who are the program's partner sites?

The five partner sites include the Center for Community Health Alignment, North Carolina CHW Association, South Carolina State University, Mayfield Johnson Resources and Services LLC, and the Tennessee CHW Association.

8. How are partner sites involved?

Partner sites assist with curriculum refinement, program delivery, and participant recruitment.

Curriculum and Training Details

9. What topics are covered in the training?

The curriculum focuses on 10 key genomics competencies, including genetic basics, genomics in public health, ethical considerations, and culturally sensitive communication.

10. How is the training delivered?

The program uses a mix of virtual and in-person sessions, including lectures, interactive workshops, and peer collaboration.

11. How long does the training take to complete?

The program spans several weeks, with approximately 20-30 hours of instructional content, including time for a Practical Applications Project.

12. Are there hands-on components in the training?

Yes, participants complete a Practical Applications Project, applying their knowledge to create educational tools, case studies, or resource guides.

13. Is the training available in Spanish?

Not at the moment, but plans are underway to offer the program in Spanish in the future.

14. Will future sessions of the training be offered?

Yes, future sessions are planned and will begin in Fall 2025.

Logistics and Costs

12. Are there any costs associated with the program?

No, the training is fully funded for selected participants, including access to all materials and resources.

13. What resources are provided to participants?

Participants receive course materials, mentorship, and a toolkit to support their roles in genomics education.

14. Will I be compensated?

Yes, all participants will be compensated \$200 at the end of the course. You must attend all synchronous sessions to be eligible for compensation. In addition, you will be asked to provide responses to a pre-course survey, post-course survey, and three-month follow-up survey. After the survey, you will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual interview. You will receive \$25 for completing each survey and \$50 if you choose to participate in the interview (up to \$100 total). In total, participants can receive up to \$325.

Benefits and Outcomes

14. What will participants gain from the training?

- Enhanced understanding of genomics concepts.
- Skills to educate diverse populations about genomics.
- Networking opportunities with peers and experts.
- A certificate of completion.

15. How will this training benefit CHWs in their roles?

It prepares CHWs to educate their communities about genomics research and engage in public health initiatives.

16. Will participants be equipped to deliver similar training at their organizations?

Yes, participants and partner sites will be equipped to continue delivering the curriculum and training others.

Evaluation and Feedback

17. How is participant success evaluated?

Success is measured through the Practical Applications Project, rubric-based assessments, and peer evaluations.

18. Can participants provide feedback on the program?

Yes, feedback is encouraged and will be used to improve future iterations of the program.

Future Opportunities

19. Are there opportunities for continued engagement after completing the program?

Yes, alumni can serve as mentors for future cohorts and participate in ongoing genomics education initiatives.