

UPMC LIFE
CHANGING
MEDICINE

UPMC HEALTH PLAN



PARTNER  WORK



Freedom House 2.0

A workforce development and introductory
healthcare careers program.

The Origins of Freedom House

- Formed in the Hill District in Pittsburgh, PA in the 1960's and 70's.
- Created to take underserved populations that society deemed “unemployable” or “undesirable” and provide them education and careers.
- Everything modern day EMS systems do can be tied back to the original Freedom House Ambulance Service.

The Origins of Freedom House

- Pioneered the idea of medical training in underserved communities.
- One of the first examples of workforce development in a non-trade field.
- Meant to diversify the healthcare workforce and ensure residents of Pittsburgh's Hill District got care from people who looked like them and had shared life experiences to theirs.

Freedom House Now

- Re-launched in 2021 as Freedom House 2.0 to provide education and employment to those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Partnership between Partner4Work, PACareerLink, UPMC HealthPlan and The City of Pittsburgh Bureau of EMS.
- 2021 and 2022 cohorts were a full 10-week long EMT course with no CHW content.
- Graduated 55 students through June 2022.

Freedom House Now

- It was found many students preferred roles in hospitals or doctor's offices over EMS. In addition, many students preferred CHW type roles.
- Freedom House curriculum was redesigned in summer 2022 to focus on only the bare minimum medical training necessary for roles as patient care technicians or medical assistants.
- Shortened to 6 weeks with 3.5 weeks of clinical/medical content and 2.5 weeks of public health, social work, and other CHW related content.

Freedom House Foundations

Accredited by the PA Certification Board in November 2022 as 150 hours of CHW Content.

Began training non-certified CHW's at UPMC who were already working in 2023

Freedom House Foundations

- Students are taught CPR, Mental Health 1st Aid, Healthcare basics via a modified Emergency Medical Responder curriculum, and the accredited CHW curriculum.
- CHW curriculum consists of public health topics surrounding the social determinants of health, long-term care strategies, patient communication techniques, and more. It also includes topics on personal safety, well-being, grief and loss, and other self-care strategies.
- Designed by Freedom House staff and the UPMC HealthPlan training and education team, our collaborative team credentials included 1 MD, 1 EdD, 1 DrPH, 2 MBA, 2 MPH, 2 NR-P, 2 MSW-LCSW, and 3 CHW's.

Class Details

Class runs for 6 weeks.

Class if M-F 930am-330pm.

Locations move around the county each cohort.

4-5 cohorts per year.

Program Requirements

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have a High School Diploma or GED.
- Live in Allegheny County.
- Meet the PA CareerLink enrollment requirements for household income or unemployment status.

Student Support for Grant Funded Students



\$1250 stipend for the 6 weeks.



Bus Pass or Gas Cards.



Computer and other classroom supplies.



Wrap-around emotional or social support through staff or the WorkPartners employee assistance program.

After Class Support

- Students are given resume and interview help during class.
- After class, students work with our Pathways to Work team at UPMC for help finding and applying for positions.
- Students have lifetime access to the Freedom House team for assistance in job placement.

Freedom House Future

- Freedom House continues to grow and expand thanks to partnerships with Partner 4 Work, PA CareerLink, The City of Pittsburgh, and the Pennsylvania State Legislature.
- Multi-county expansion planned for 2024.
- Tuition based model for training non-grant funded CHW's who are already working and interested in the certification.

How to Apply



- To apply for Freedom House, scan the QR code on screen or visit our website using this link: [Freedom House Foundations | UPMC Health Plan](#)
- For more information e-mail FreedomHouse@upmc.edu