

Community Health Centers: Delivering Results for the Nation

Ensuring High-Quality, Cost-Effective Care in Every Community

Health Centers are an American success story. They demonstrate that communities can improve health, reduce health inequities, generate taxpayer savings, and effectively address a multitude of costly and significant public health problems, including epidemics of flu and coronavirus, HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders, maternal mortality, veterans' access to care, and natural disasters.

Congress has affirmed the crucial role health centers play in ensuring access to quality primary and preventive care for more than 30 million people by investing in health centers and advancing needed policies. **Health centers want to continue to work in partnership with Congress to address the following issues:**

- **Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic.** Health centers are trusted health care providers in their communities and are ready to play a greater role in testing and vaccinating vulnerable patients but need resources to ensure patient care. The Congress has long recognized the record of health centers to deliver results and that is why funding was included in the American Rescue Plan and earlier COVID response packages. **Health centers support this flexible funding to restore and expand services as well as to assist with testing and vaccination efforts.**
- **Providing Comprehensive Care through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.** Health centers successfully utilize the 340B program, ensuring patients can access medications at affordable prices, and that health centers can reinvest savings into improved quality of care and expanded services. **Health centers support protecting 340B and ensuring the continued use of 340B savings to provide more comprehensive care to more underserved patients, as Congress intended.**
- **Expanding Access through Telehealth.** Telehealth offers great benefits to patients and providers in both rural and urban areas, including when workforce shortages and geography present barriers to accessing care. Health Centers need adequate reimbursement in Medicare and Medicaid and these policies need to be extended beyond the Public Health Emergency. **Health centers support the CONNECT for Health Act, which allows for further utilization of telehealth services alongside sustainable Medicare reimbursement.**
- **Meeting the Workforce Needs.** Health centers must recruit, train, and retain an integrated, multi-disciplinary workforce to provide high-quality care. Long-term investments in the nation's primary care workforce are needed to ensure health centers are able to keep pace with the growing and changing needs in their communities. **Health centers urge Congress to support at least \$7 billion to address chronic workforce shortages at Community Health Centers. Additionally, we encourage Senators to cosponsor the Strengthening America's Health Care Readiness Act (S. 54) to invest billions into the National Health Service Corps.**
- **Expanding Access to Care.** The last significant infrastructure investment in Community Health Centers was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, when health centers served less than 18 million patients. With proper resources to **expand facilities and services**, health centers will be prepared to serve between **8-11 million additional** patients over the next four years. **Congress should commit at least \$5.9 billion to meet needed capital projects, begin a four-year effort to double federal investments in the health center program, as well as provide \$2.2 billion in discretionary funding for FY2022.**