



ADVOCATES FOR  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH

# Member Newsletter

[advocatesforcommunityhealth.org](http://advocatesforcommunityhealth.org)

## March 2024



Dear ACH Members,

Wow! What a fantastic week in Washington, DC for our [3rd Annual Member Meeting](#) this month! It was wonderful seeing so many of you in person. I was so pleased with the richness of discussions that happened during the meeting and I could not be more proud or grateful to our incredible members who drive our vision, our priorities, and our advocacy. If you have any ideas on how we can improve future meetings, please [let us know](#).

As you are aware, a funding package was authorized in the form of another continuing resolution through the end of the year for the CHC Fund, and we know this could not have happened without the important work of ACH and our members. ACH is committed to continuing to advocate for the long-term, increased, and sustainable funding that health centers need.

In addition, 340B continues to be one of ACH's top priorities. Our focus on protecting 340B and advancing our [340C legislative proposal](#) persists, with multiple Congressional offices expressing interest in putting forward potential legislation based on 340C. On Friday, ACH will submit our response to the Senate 340B Working Groups draft legislation and RFI – offering perspective and recommendations provided directly by ACH's membership via the 340B Workgroup, Executive Policy Advisory Council (EPAC) and Board of Directors. Health centers' ability to access and leverage this vital program is decreasing by the day, and ACH

is committed to driving meaningful policy change to ensure health centers are protected.

While I know there is much more work to do, I am inspired, once again to keep going, to bring bold vision to reality, and to drive ACH's mission for the millions of patients and communities that health centers serve every day.

Warmly,  
Amanda



## Here's the Latest from DC

### **An Update from our Policy & Government Affairs Team**

The election is 221 days away, and the campaigns are in full swing. Last week, the House and Senate passed a [\\$1.2 trillion package of spending bills](#) and avoided a partial shutdown. The package funds about 70% of the government, including CHCs/Section 330 and HHS operations. As expected, discretionary funding for Section 330 is flat (\$1.858 billion) compared to FY2023. We had heard rumors from Congressional leaders about attaching a bipartisan health package to the FY2024 appropriations package, which included \$5 billion for 1 year for the CHC Fund, but unfortunately, that did not come to fruition. However, we anticipate these policies will ultimately be considered in an end-of-year package.

President Biden recently released his FY2025 budget proposal, which included increased funding for the Health Center Program (Section 330), THCGME, NHSC, and Medicare mental health benefits. ACH provided a breakdown of what this means for our members in [this blog post](#).

If you missed the latest Policy Biweekly Update email last week from our Policy Team, you will find the full length recent update in [ACH's Members-Only Portal](#).

Let the Policy Team know what's on your mind!

## ACH's Response to ACO Primary Care Flex Model for Medicare Populations Announcement

We are pleased to see the Biden-Harris Administration's announcement of the Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) Primary Care Flex Model and greatly appreciate our collaboration with CMS as it develops models that consider the unique needs of community health centers. [Read our statement](#)

## ACH's Response to FY 2024 Omnibus Appropriations Package

Community health centers were flat funded in the recently released FY24 omnibus appropriations package. While we understand the difficult budget environment on Capitol Hill and are grateful that our funding held steady, this is one more reason that multi-year, stable and increased funding for the mandatory CHC Fund is so necessary. [Read our statement](#)

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## Membership News

### Member Referral Program

Do you know of a Community Health Center that is a strong fit for ACH membership? We are pleased to share its new referral form. Current members can recommend health centers that resonate with ACH's mission and values. Our members see our impact and are our best referrals - submit a referral today to help ACH grow!

[Submit a Referral](#)

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Our Members-Only Portal is where you will find resources and more! To get started:

1. Click [here](#).
2. Enter this password: **ACHMember**

## Member Spotlight

This year's Advocate of the Year is Jessica Ho, Government & Community Affairs Director at North East Medical Services (NEMS). In this interview with Jessica, you will find:

- What keeps Jessica motivated to advocate for health centers
- Barriers that NEMS faces daily
- How ACH membership has benefited NEMS



[Read Blog Post](#)

Members-Only Webinar

## Helping FQHCS's Prepare for An Aging Population

[Register Now](#)

Join ACH to hear from  
ACH members who will  
share their initiatives  
targeting their elderly  
community members.

**April 3 @12:00 PM ET**



## Funding Opportunities



As an exclusive benefit to our members, Advocates for Community Health curates a regularly updated list of active and upcoming funding opportunities.

[View Funding Opportunities](#)

## Must-Read Articles



America's shortage of primary care doctors and nurse practitioners has a downstream effect in the nation's operating rooms, a new study finds.

[Read More](#)



Review this helpful reference guide for policy pathways on using Medicaid to address health-related social needs as part of a strategy to advance health equity.

[Read More](#)



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