

## We urge Congress to invest \$10.75B in Community Health Centers in Fiscal Year 2026

*Including both Mandatory and Discretionary Funds*

### History: Health centers are mission driven

The Health Center Program is designed to ensure a comprehensive medical home for all patients, regardless of ability to pay. Community health centers (CHCs) are governed by a 51% consumer majority board, are key employers in their communities and have a proven track record of impact and success in fulfilling this mission for 60 years.

### Reality: Health centers are in fiscal crisis

Now more than ever, CHCs are facing unprecedented financial uncertainty, additional administrative burdens, and severe workforce shortages – compounded by the expiration of mandatory funding and ongoing erosion of the 340B program. Now is the time to strengthen our nation's health care safety net by securing long-term funding and protecting the resources CHCs need to continue delivering high-quality primary and preventative care to at-risk and underserved Americans.

Community health centers are model stewards of federal funds, providing quality care to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay.

- For every \$1 invested in primary care like the care provided at health centers, \$13 is saved in downstream costs through the prevention of expensive complications and emergency room visits.
- For Medicaid patients, health centers save 24% per patient compared to other providers.
- For Medicare patients, costs for health centers are 10% lower than physician office patients and 30% lower than outpatient clinics.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) notes that although it is not scorable, funding community health centers leads to more cost-effective patient care than the care that patients would otherwise receive and could save the federal government billions of dollars.

### Unprecedented need requires bold action

#### Our FY 2026 Asks Include:

##### **\$10.75B for combined mandatory and discretionary funding for Community Health Centers**

- \$7.87B through the Community Health Center Fund, which must be reauthorized in 2025, and
- \$2.88B through the FY26 appropriations process

##### **Meaningful Increases for Community Health Centers Workforce Programs:**

- \$950M (mandatory) for the National Health Service Corps
- \$300M (mandatory) for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program

# How would this funding help community health centers fulfill their mission?



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HEALTH

1

## EXPAND ACCESS

Funding will enable ongoing and expanded access to care for people in rural and underserved communities, particularly as the country faces ongoing mental health, maternal mortality, and substance abuse crises. This care prevents care at more costly settings like emergency rooms.

2

## ADVANCE PREVENTIVE CARE

This funding will allow CHCs to continue to address the root causes of poor health outcomes through comprehensive nutrition-based initiatives and chronic disease management services.

3

## GROW WORKFORCE

Investment allows health centers to recruit, retain, and invest in their workforce, from front office staff to clinicians. Health centers currently are only able to meet 25% of patient mental health needs due to workforce shortages.

4

## DRIVE INNOVATION

Health centers are masters of innovation to meet the needs of communities. Increased investment will allow health centers to innovate and expand telehealth and value based care to improve patient outcomes by addressing patients' unique and underlying health conditions.



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