

A BOLD VISION FOR HEALTH CENTER FUNDING: THE ROADMAP



ADVOCATES FOR
COMMUNITY
HEALTH

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We urge Congress to increase the Community Health Center Fund to \$7.87 billion annually for three years

The Challenge

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 129 million people in the US have at least one major chronic disease (e.g. heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, or hypertension), and five of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US are, or are strongly associated with, preventable and treatable chronic diseases. At the same time, **over a third of Americans do not have access to primary care, which has been shown to prevent and control chronic diseases.** HRSA reports that, despite the strong community health center network, anywhere from 65% to 94% of health care needs in underserved communities are not being met.

The Opportunity

HRSA-funded non-profit health centers provide comprehensive primary care at more than 16,000 service sites nationwide to 1 in 8 children, 1 in 5 rural residents, and 1 in 15 adults 65 and older. **The Congressional Budget Office has found that health care provided at health centers improves the rates of controlled chronic disease and saves downstream health care dollars.** Despite these undeniable benefits, health centers are facing financial challenges on many fronts. Issues including the nationwide workforce shortage, small operating margins, impending Medicaid changes, and a weakening 340B program, all contribute to the daily struggle health centers are facing. Health centers could reach far more people, and have even greater impact on families and communities, with greater federal investment

What You Can Do: The Strategy

EDUCATE & ADVOCATE



Community health centers (CHCs) will call attention to these vital programs and urge their members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to support them in legislative vehicles. **CHCs are supported by Republicans and Democrats alike** and can be a common ground in upcoming negotiations.

COMMUNICATE



Community health center leaders will leverage the media to educate their communities and neighbors about the value of community health centers, which increase the health and wellbeing of all residents.

BUILD THE MOVEMENT



Bring like-minded national, state, and local organizations and leaders into the movement, calling for the reinvestment in these programs as an opportunity to improve the health of Americans.

and stronger protection of existing programs. **We need a bold strategy to expand the reach of community health centers for the health of all Americans.**

Our Asks

Increase the Community Health Center Fund to \$7.87 billion annually for three years.

- This level of funding, over an 80% increase in current funding levels, would allow health centers to **meet the unmet need in their communities** by expanding services, adding sites, increasing site open hours, and continue to develop innovative models that improve health care delivery and keep people and communities healthy. **This funding would also help boost the economy and create jobs** by ensuring a sufficient workforce, from medical assistants to clinicians, during the current workforce shortage. *Current Level: \$4.26B/year.*

Protect the 340B Program.

- **The 340B Program was created for safety net providers like community health centers.** It stretches scarce federal resources, allowing health centers to provide **critical prevention and treatment services** to people with, or at risk of developing, chronic diseases, **especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas.** From maternal health to diabetes management to wellness and nutrition programs, 340B is critical to how health centers serve communities.
- If the 340B Program were limited, health centers would be forced to cut services, hours and staff.
- Our asks:
 - Please **oppose any legislation that limits health centers' ability to access and benefit** from the program.
 - Support 340B reform legislation that **protects the use of contract pharmacies, prevents insurance companies and PBMs from gaming the system, and increases transparency and accountability** for the use of 340B savings.

Reinvest in the Primary Care Workforce.

- Support the **National Health Service Corps (NHSC)**, which supports primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health providers in underserved communities through scholarships and loan repayment programs. **Nearly 19 million patients rely on the nation's more than 20,000 NHSC clinicians for a range of clinical services, especially in primary care;** and once their federal service ends, **the vast majority of these clinicians remain in their communities.**
 - Congress should fund the NHSC at \$950 million annually, which will result in more care provided in more underserved and rural communities, and makes a down payment on future workforce capacity in underserved areas.
 - The **Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program (THCGME)** helps communities grow their health workforce by training physicians and dentists in community-based settings with a **focus on rural and underserved communities.** It has added over 2,000 clinicians to the workforce since its inception and created a robust infrastructure for teaching in community settings.
 - Fund the THCGME program at \$300 million annually to increase the number of clinicians **trained and ready to serve** in underserved areas.

Scan to learn more



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