

Presentation to

Virtual Migrant and Community Health Forum

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NACHC

Cesar Chavez in the House!

Yes, the WHITE HOUSE!









COVID Vaccines: This Is Our Shot!

Why Health Centers?

Why You?

Why Now?



Ag-Worker Access Campaign Update

A national initiative to increase the number of Migratory & Seasonal Agricultural Workers & their families served in Community and Migrant Health Centers.



Campaign Focus

The Campaign's primary efforts revolve around:

- (1) Understanding and addressing MSAW's unique needs and the barriers they face related to accessing health care
- 2 Identifying and disseminating promising practices for increasing access to care for MSAWs
- Building capacity of C/MHC staff and other organizations serving agricultural workers through training and technical assistance.
- Supporting local/regional/state coalitions between C/MHCs and other Ag worker-serving entities

Campaign Goal 1,031,049 Increase the number of Agricultural workers and their families served in Community and 995,232 Migrant Health Centers to 972,251 2 million. 957,529 910,172 892,056 2018 2015 2019 2014 2016 2017 **BASELINE**

Data Source: HRSA UDS

Sign up to be part of the Campaign!

www.ncfh.org/ag-worker-access.html 🧧





Policy Priorities and Advocacy Updates

Where We Have Been Since the Election

- NACHC began conversations with the Biden Transition Team to remind them of the role of health centers and provide ideas on ways to operationalize President Biden's campaign pledge to double the federal investment in the Health Center Program.
- ➤ In December, Congress passed a three-year reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund and extensions of the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program.
 - That legislation also included discretionary funding for Health Centers at nearly \$1.7 billion.
 - The bill also included the ability for FQHCs and rural health clinics to receive a new payment for Medicare hospice patients.



What's In the American Rescue Plan

- > \$7.6 billion for Health Centers, as defined by Section 330 and the Social Security Administration (includes look-alikes) and \$20 million set-aside for Native Hawaiian Health Centers
- Funds can be used for 6 eligible uses:
 - To plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, and track COVID-19 vaccines
 - To detect, diagnose, trace and monitor COVID-19 infections and related activities necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including activities related to, and equipment or supplies purchased for, testing, contact tracing, surveillance, mitigation and treatment of COVID-19



Additional Relief in the Legislation

- > \$800 million for the National Health Service Corps, \$200 million for the Nurse Corps, and \$330 million for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education programs, all of which support the health center workforce;
- > \$7.6 billion to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expand the public health workforce;
- > \$47.8 billion to HHS to implement a national testing strategy and contact tracing surveillance; and
- > \$7.5 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for vaccine administration and distribution, to be dispersed to support state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, community vaccination centers, and mobile vaccination units.





NACHC's 2021 Policy Priorities

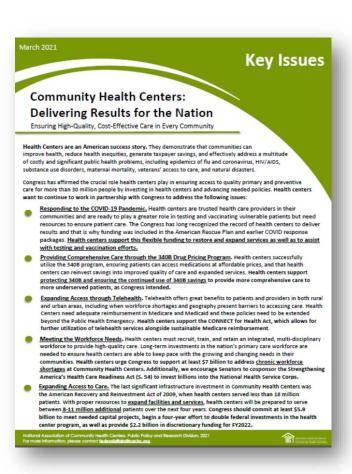
The funding from December and this COVID package are important but do not capture the full needs of FQHCs

- ✓ 2021 Congressional Agenda including COVID-19 Pandemic Funding
- ✓ Community Health Center Funding/Appropriations & Mandatory Funding
- ✓ Telehealth
- ✓ 340B
- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Workforce
- Medicare PPS





Ensuring Quality Health Center Care



Overview of Key Congressional Actions Needed:

- Supporting Health Center Funding to Address <u>COVID-19</u>
 <u>Pandemic</u>
- Protecting 340B to preserve vital savings that are reinvested into health center operations
- Ensuring <u>Telehealth Continues</u> Beyond the Public Health Emergency
- Expanding the Health Center Workforce
- Building on the Success through <u>Continued Funding for Services and Infrastructure</u>





Mandatory & Appropriations Funding

March 2021

Preserve, Strengthen and Expand the Community
Health Center System of Care

Building on Success and Ensuring Long-Term Stability

As the largest primary care network in the country, Community Health Centers play an integral role in our nation's health care system. The next step is to build on the successes of the past by Preserving, Strengthening and Expanding the model to more communities and populations.

Preserve the capacity of Community Health Centers to continue to serve our existing 30 million underserved, rural and urban patients by ensuring sufficient long-term, stable funding.

Strengthen the capacity of health centers to serve their current patients by improving quality, bolstering services, strengthening emergency preparedness, integrating community systems to address the social determinants of health, bolster information technology capacity, and launching new innovative clinical and administrative workforce initiatives.

Expand the Health Center Program to serve 8 to 11 million new patients over a 4-year period; and expand access to include critically needed services such as oral health, mental health, and substance use dispansion is also needed to bring services to additional patient groups such as America's growing elderly population, public housing residents, our homeless, aericultural workers, rural residents, and our Veterans amone others.

- Widening the program by extending care into additional communities most recently revealed by COVID-19 to have clear inequities in health status, as well as caring for the newly uninsured and unemployed due to COVID-19, would yield at least 8 million new patients.
- Deepening services at existing sites to include greater access to maternal/newborn health care, COVID long-term issues, mental and behavioral health care, oral health and aging and aging. They also include costs to expand the workforce to deliver these services. As a result of these services, we anticipate that health centers could reach as many as 3 million more people in need.

Health centers deliver an excellent return on this federal investment:

- They reach individuals with the greatest difficulty accessing or affording health care services, including those with chronic diseases at risk for costly health complications, and guarantee them access to high-quality care, improve health outcomes, and narrow health disparities.
- Health centers are efficient and <u>save the health care system \$24 billion every year</u>, reducing unnecessary inpatient hospitalizations and Emergency Room use.

How you can help:

- Support a four-year commitment to double mandatory federal investments in Community Health Centers to
 preserve and strengthen existing sites of care and expand access to millions more Americans.
- Resources are needed to deepen and widen health center services while also maintaining core services that
 are currently provided to the 30 million health center patients.
- Support \$2.2 billion in discretionary funding for Community Health Centers through the FY2022 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill.
- Sign on to the House DeGette-Bilirakis letter to the Appropriations Committee requesting "strong funding" for health centers.

National Association of Community Health Centers, Public Policy and Research Division, 2021



BACKGROUND: Mandatory Funding

President Biden has called for doubling the federal investment in the Community Health Center Fund.

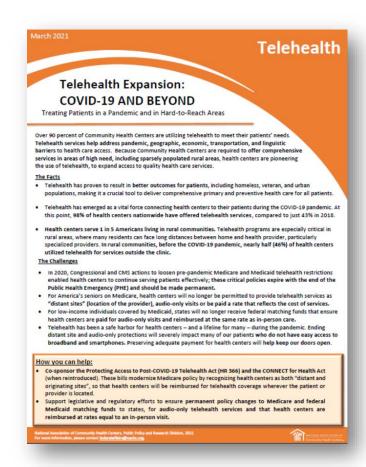
OUR ASK:

 Begin a four-year commitment to double federal investment in the Health Center Program





Make The Asks: Background Telehealth



BACKGROUND: Over 90 percent of Community Health Centers are utilizing telehealth to meet their patients' needs.

OUR ASK:

Co-sponsor the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act (HR 366) and the CONNECT for Health Act (when reintroduced) to:

 Support legislative and regulatory efforts for audio-only telehealth services.





Make The Asks: 340B Drug Pricing Program

340B Drug Discount Increasing Pharmacy Access for Underserved Patients Providing discounted drugs and enhanced services to those in need Providing access to a full range of affordable comprehensive services, including pharmacy services, is a key component of the community health center model. Established in 1992, the 340B Drug Discount Pricing Program provides health centers access to outpatient drugs at reduced prices, enabling them to ensure that all low-income patients have access to affordable prescription drug In addition, the savings from the 340B program are integral to health centers' ability to sustain ongoing operations. In fact, many health centers report that due to their slim operating margins, without the savings from the 3408 program they would be severely limited in their ability to support many of their conservices and activities for their patients Health centers exemplify the type of safety net program that the 340B program was intended to support. By law, serve only those areas and populations that HHS has designated as high need · ensure that all patients can access the full range of services they provide, regardless of insurance status, income, or ability to pay · are required to reinvest all 340B savings into activities that are federally-approved as advancing their charitable mission of ensuring access to care for the underserved. While every health center decides how its 340B sayings can best benefit its patients, these sayings often suppor clinical pharmacy programs, extended evening and weekend hours, case management services and sliding fee discounts – ultimately increasing patient access to care Health centers are subject to detailed programmatic and reporting requirements as well as federal oversight that they must adhere to, and which guide their participation in the 340B program. The 340B program is currently under assault on several fronts – and it is crucial that it is protected. Health centers' reliance on 340B is critical to their financial viability and their ability to provide quality comprehensive low-cost health services, including affordable medications, to their patients. How you can help:

- Make it explicitly clear that 340B covered entities are entitled to purchas outpatient drugs at 340B pricing for eligible patients through each covered e
- Prevent implementation of a 340B rebate model by manufacturers and cla condition of the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
- Prevent private for-profit companies from "pick-pocketing" 340B savings fr thereby, under-cutting the intent of the program for Health Centers, by gra Congress must guarantee a solution by adding an "anti-discrimination" claus

lational Association of Community Health Centers, Public Policy and Research Division, 2021



Our Asks:

- Make it explicitly clear that 340B covered entities are entitled to purchase all drug manufacturers' covered outpatient.
- Prevent implementation of a 340B rebate model. Health Centers can't afford to pay full price for expensive drugs!
- Prevent private for-profit companies from "pick-pocketing" 340B savings from health centers. Congress must guarantee a solution by adding an "antidiscrimination" clause to the 340B statute.





Make The Asks: Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Investing in Health Centers -Preparing for the Future

Sustaining and Growing Health Centers to Meet Rising Demand

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 30 million patients currently, America's 1,400 non-profit health centers organizations operated on razor thin margins long before the COVID-19 pandemic and its detrimental impact.

The onset of COVID-19 brought billions of dollars of additional financial losses triggered by site closures, service disruptions, staff quarantine, layoffs and furloughs. These losses were exacerbated by additional unanticipated expenditures such as PPE, testing supplies, and infrastructure expenses (ventilation, tents, IT and telehealth equipment, space reconfigurations.)

Yet, the demand for health center services is greater than ever, especially by the growing number of newly unemployed and uninsured – human casualties of the pandemic economy. The ability of health centers to fund or finance infrastructure remains even more limited, yet the need for infrastructure investment – whether construction, renovation, equipment, IT, telehealth/broadband and other capital infrastructure projects – continues to grow.

Additional space and facilities will be critical for health centers to continue to serve the current 30 million patients and have the capacity to care for 8 to 11 million new patients over a 4-year period. There is substantial need for critically important services such as oral health, mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services like Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and school-based health center services. Expansion is also needed to bring services to additional patient groups such as America's growing elderly population, public housine residents, our homeless, ascricultural workers. Tural residents and our Yeterans. among others.

Health Center capital infrastructure needs total at least \$13.1 billion. Yet, by leveraging other existing programs, such as HRSA Loan Guarantees, No Community Facilities Program.

Health centers have proven their value to local economies again and again investment, in 2019 health centers generated 455,000 full time jobs (253, created more than 564.3 billion in economic activity. Further infrastructu centers will create economic opportunities and jobs for residents of rural a

How you can help:

 Support at least \$5.9 billion in dedicated infrastructure funding to ad equipment, IT, telehealth and broadband projects when the Congres

National Association of Community Health Centers, Public Policy and Research Division, 202: For more information, please contact <u>Redenius@machc.org.</u>



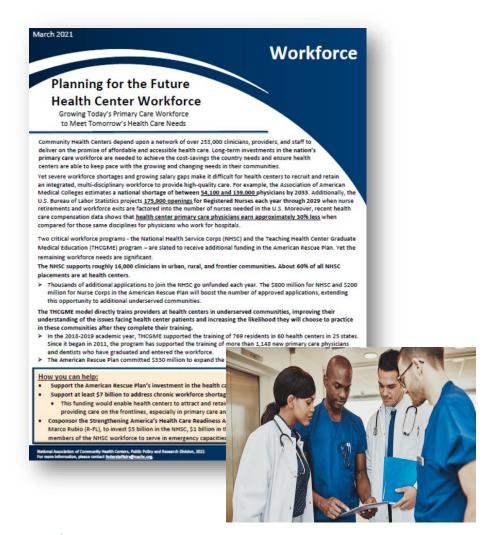
Support at least \$5.9 billion in dedicated infrastructure funding to address needed:

- Construction
- Renovation
- Equipment
- IT
- Telehealth Broadband projects





Make The Asks: Workforce



BACKGROUND:

HRSA estimates a national shortage of 124,000 to 156,000 physicians by 2025.

OUR ASK:

- Support at least \$7 billion to address chronic workforce shortages at Community Health Centers
- Co-sponsor the Strengthening America's Health Care Readiness Act (S. 54), from Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)





Public Charge Rule

- As you know, the Trump Administration imposed a controversial rule that allowed federal immigration officials to consider legal immigrants' use of government health, nutrition and housing programs against them in their applications for permanent legal residency.
- ➤ After review, the Biden Administration dismissed the Trump Administration's "public charge" rule on March 16, 2021.
- ➤ California Primary Care Association (CPCA) and the Association for Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), and the National Health Center immigration Work Group, have fought against Public Charge for a host of reasons, not the least of which is that it puts the health and well-being of immigrant families at risk.
- Advocates are now calling for the Biden Administration to formally rescind the rule and promote awareness of the reversal for increased confidence among immigrant communities.

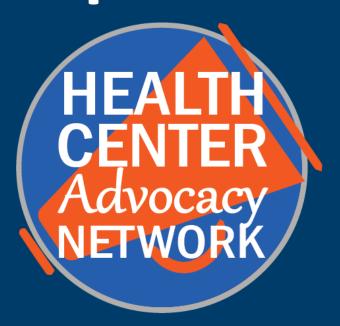


HOT NEWS: House Passes Two Immigration Bills, pero...

➤ American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act - Creating a pathway to legalization for Dreamers and undocumented farmworkers

Que hacemos? (What can we do?)

Grassroots Advocacy Updates



Goal:

Expand, equip and mobilize grassroots and grasstops for long-term promotion and protection of CHCs

Guiding Questions:

- Can CHCs Survive and Thrive the Pandemic?
- Is This a Moment or a Movement?
- How Do We Increase Equity?

Messaging

and

Mobilizing

Unique

- Responding to Public Health Concerns
- Value-based Care
- Patient & Local Control

What CHCs & Communities Could Lose

- Dependable revenue streams
- Clinical and non-clinical Staff
- Ability to serve patients through innovative, integrated care
- Economic loss







Tips for a Successful Meeting with Elected Officials

Make an Appointment
Schedule a meeting with the
District office scheduler.

Clarify the Audience (*)
How you frame the question will
depend on if you are addressing
the elected officials themselves
or their staff.

Identify the Goal of the Group E.g. Get your Member of Congress to take action to pass long-term, stable funding with room to grow.

Bring Leave Behind Materials
Think about visual aids that will
help your members remember
why they must vote for long-term
and stable funding. Consider
bringing data materials specific to
your health center. Try using the
Vital Impact Estimator
(http://bit.ly/CHCFundImpact).

Plan who will speak and who will make which asks based on your group's goals (see other side for EINFORCEMENTS (DATA, STATS, FACTS):







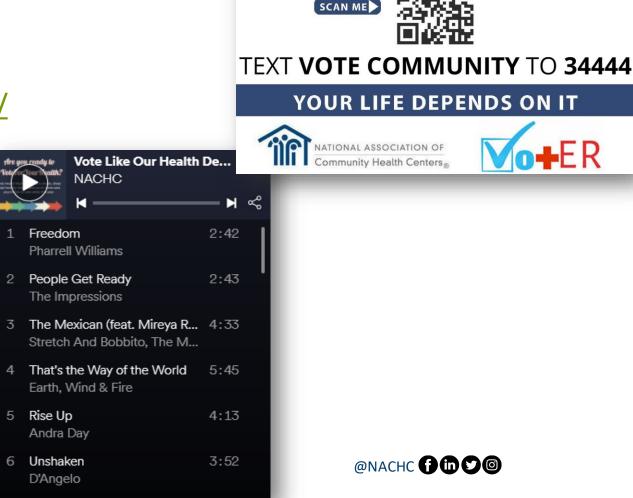
CHCs Get Out The Vote Campaign

➤ We are partnering with non-profit VotER to build voter registration capacity within the health center movement. Learn more at:

https://www.hcadvocacy.org/civic-engagement/

- Email & text outreach only if patients have "opted-in"
- VOTE COMMUNITY to 34444
- Find inspiration by listening to our "Vote Like Our Health Depends On It" Spotify playlist: https://bit.ly/VotERPlaylist





REGISTER TO VOTE

Advocacy Center of Excellence (ACE/HACE) Program Update

- ➤ Goal: To help CHCs feel empowered to engage in meaningful advocacy efforts
- **➤ Updated criteria:**
 - New point system developed for achieving Silver and Gold status
 - Quarterly calls with ACE affiliates nationwide
 - **HACE** eligibility ACE Bronze status plus Spanish requirements (see application)





BE RECOGNIZED FOR YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THE HEALTH CENTER MISSION.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT WWW.HCADVOCACY.ORG/ACE

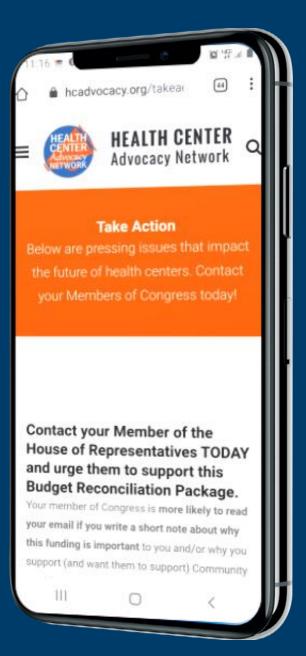






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Spanish Resources on HCAdvocacy.org

- The Washington "Boletin" Spanish advocacy newsletter is returning
 - 'Defensores' are encouraged to subscribe https://www.hcadvocacy.org/sea-un-defensor/
- Updates to the HACE Program application and qualifications are updated on HCAdvocacy.org/
- Contact Shamaal Sheppard at <u>ssheppard@nachc.org</u> with questions.



APLICA AQUI!

Sabias? Los Centros de Salud Comunitarias proporcionan atención medica y comprehensiva a más de 30 millones de pacientes en 14.500 centros de prestación de servicios en todos los estados y territorios.





¿Sabías usted? De todos los pacientes del centro de salud, el 36 % son hispanos.





Gracias/Thank You for Caring Enough To Make a Difference For Taking Action! iSi Se Puede!

Questions/Preguntas?



Further questions? Contact us.

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