



# Reauthorizing Long-Term Investment in a Successful Model

Sustaining and Growing Health Centers to Meet Rising Demand

Federal grant funding for the Health Center program currently comes from two sources:

- \$1.63 billion in annual discretionary appropriations and
- **\$4.0 billion in the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF) - which will expire on September 30, 2019 without Congressional action.**

Federal investments supporting the health center system of **care must be sustained in a long-term and stable manner** to ensure health centers' ability to plan for the future, recruit staff, and expand services for patients, as well as to reduce the uncertainty caused by year-to-year renewals of this critical investment in access to care.

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 disease at risk for costly health complications, and guarantee them access to high-quality care, improving health outcomes and narrowing health disparities.
- Health centers are efficient and **save the health care system \$24 billion every year**, reducing unnecessary inpatient hospitalizations and ER use.
- As local, non-profit businesses, health centers promote economic growth in distressed communities, generating \$54.6 billion in total economic activity each year and employing over 220,000 people across the country. **In fact, every \$1 in federal 330 investments generates \$5.73 in economic activity.**

**How you can help:** Cosponsor at least one piece of legislation to extend long-term and stable funding for the Community Health Center Fund:

- **S. 106, Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence (CHIME) Act (Blunt/Stabenow)** - provides 5 years of funding for the CHCF including ~4% annual growth (\$4.2B in FY20 through \$5.0B in FY24).
- **S. 192, Community and Public Health Programs Extension Act (Alexander/Murray)** - provides 5 years of level funding for the CHCF (\$4B/year FY20-24).
- **Community Health Center and Primary Care Workforce Expansion Act (Sen. Sanders, Rep. Clyburn)** provides 5 years of funding for the CHCF including ~10% annual growth (\$5.6B in FY20 through \$8.2B in FY24).