



Community Health Centers 2019 Federal Policy Issues in Brief

Health Centers are an American success story. They demonstrate that communities can improve health, reduce health disparities, generate taxpayer savings, and effectively address a multitude of costly and significant public health problems, including substance use disorder, homelessness, veterans' access to care, and natural disasters.

Over the last decade, Congress has affirmed the crucial role that health centers play in ensuring access to quality primary and preventive care for 28 million people by investing in health centers and advancing needed policies. Health centers request that Congress once again extend Section 330 federal grant funding, alongside critical workforce programs by:

- **Cosponsoring legislation to extend the Community Health Center Fund, the National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers program for five years and**
- **Providing stable annual discretionary funding.**

Additionally, health centers want to continue to work in partnership with Congress to address the following issues:

- ✓ **Providing Comprehensive Care through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.** Health centers successfully utilize the 340B program, ensuring patients can buy their medications at affordable prices; and that health centers can reinvest the savings into improved quality of care and expanded services. **Health centers support** protecting the 340B program and ensuring that health centers can continue to use 340B savings to provide more comprehensive care to more patients, as Congress intended.
- ✓ **Protecting an Effective Medicaid Program.** Medicaid is a critical program for delivering high quality care to health center patients, half of whom are covered by Medicaid, and is essential to health center operations as health centers' largest revenue source. **Health centers support** preserving a strong Medicaid program including the unique and cost effective FQHC PPS payment methodology.
- ✓ **Taking Action to Prevent and Treat Substance Use Disorders.** As communities across America cope with a dramatic increase in substance use disorders, including opioid addiction, health centers are leaders in integrating medical, dental and behavioral health care, along with other services, to respond to the pressing need for enhanced care. **Health centers support** targeted and sustainable investments and policy changes to continue to meet this challenge.
- ✓ **Expanding Access through Telehealth.** Telehealth offers great benefits to patients and providers in both rural and urban areas alike, especially when workforce shortages and geography present barriers to accessing care. **Health centers support** further utilization of telehealth services alongside sustainable reimbursement.

