

An Annual 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:

- **Annual discretionary appropriations, which account for just under 30% of this funding;** and
- The Community Health Center Fund (CHCF), which accounts for just over 70% of this funding and will expire on May 22, 2020, without Congressional action.

For decades, Congress has made an annual bipartisan investment that provides the foundation for the health center model of care. The return on this investment is clear: independent studies have shown that health centers consistently save money – resulting in fewer emergency room visits, fewer inpatient hospitalizations and readmissions, and reduced length of stays.

Specifically, health centers rely on federal grant funding to:

- provide high-quality, cost-effective primary medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and vision care for more than 29 million patients in rural and urban communities – 1.4 million of whom are experiencing homelessness and 23% of whom are uninsured;
- expand facilities, open new sites, and broaden services to meet need in areas with limited access to care – including transportation, care coordination, and translation/interpretation services; and
- respond to emerging health care needs, including epidemics of flu and coronavirus, combatting opioid and other substance use disorders, preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS, addressing rising maternal mortality rates, supporting our nation's veterans, and helping communities in the aftermath of natural disasters.

How you can help:

- **Sign the DeGette-Bilirakis letter** in the House ([deadline March 9, 2020](#)) and the **Wicker-Stabenow letter** in the Senate ([deadline March 20, 2020](#)).
- **Support \$1.78 billion for CHC discretionary funding** in the FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. This figure is consistent with the increases laid out in the President's FY21 Budget Request to address HIV prevention and homelessness, as well as an additional \$50 million set aside for capital funding to support the growth and development of health centers across the country.
- **Support a \$275 million increase for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC)** in the FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, which would **enable an average of one NHSC primary care provider to be placed in every Community Health Center site.**