

# Community Health Centers: Cornerstones of Care

Ensuring High-Quality, Cost-Effective Care in Every Community

**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 epidemics of flu and coronavirus, HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders, maternal mortality, veterans' access to care, and natural disasters.

Congress has affirmed the crucial role health centers play in ensuring access to quality primary and preventive care for 29 million people by investing in health centers and advancing needed policies. **Health centers want to continue to work in partnership with Congress to address the following issues:**

- **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.***
- **Providing Comprehensive Care through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.** Health centers successfully utilize the 340B program, ensuring patients can buy medications at affordable prices, and that health centers can reinvest savings into improved quality of care and expanded services. ***Health centers support protecting 340B and ensuring that they can continue to use 340B savings to provide more comprehensive care to more underserved patients, as Congress intended.***
- **Expanding Access through Telehealth.** Telehealth offers great benefits to patients and providers in both rural and urban areas, especially when workforce shortages and geography present barriers to accessing care. ***Health centers support H.R. 4932 and S. 2741, the CONNECT for Health Act, which allows for further utilization of telehealth services alongside sustainable Medicare reimbursement.***
- **Helping Manage Pain while Preventing 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 H.R. 5693, the Primary Health Services Enhancement Act, to integrate physical therapy services into health centers in order to help patients rehabilitate and maintain wellness through non-medication pain management strategies.***
- **Providing Continuity of Care for Seniors.** Health centers are serving more Medicare recipients than ever, providing high-quality care across the lifespan. ***Health centers support H.R. 2594 and S. 1190, the Rural Access to Hospice Act, to allow health center providers to provide ongoing support to Medicare patients utilizing hospice care.***